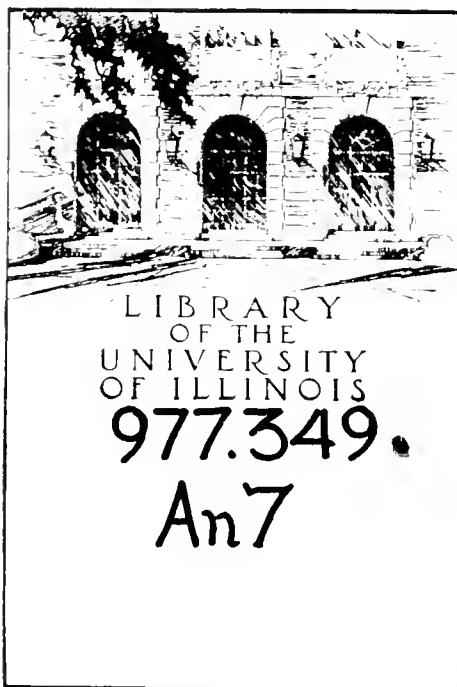
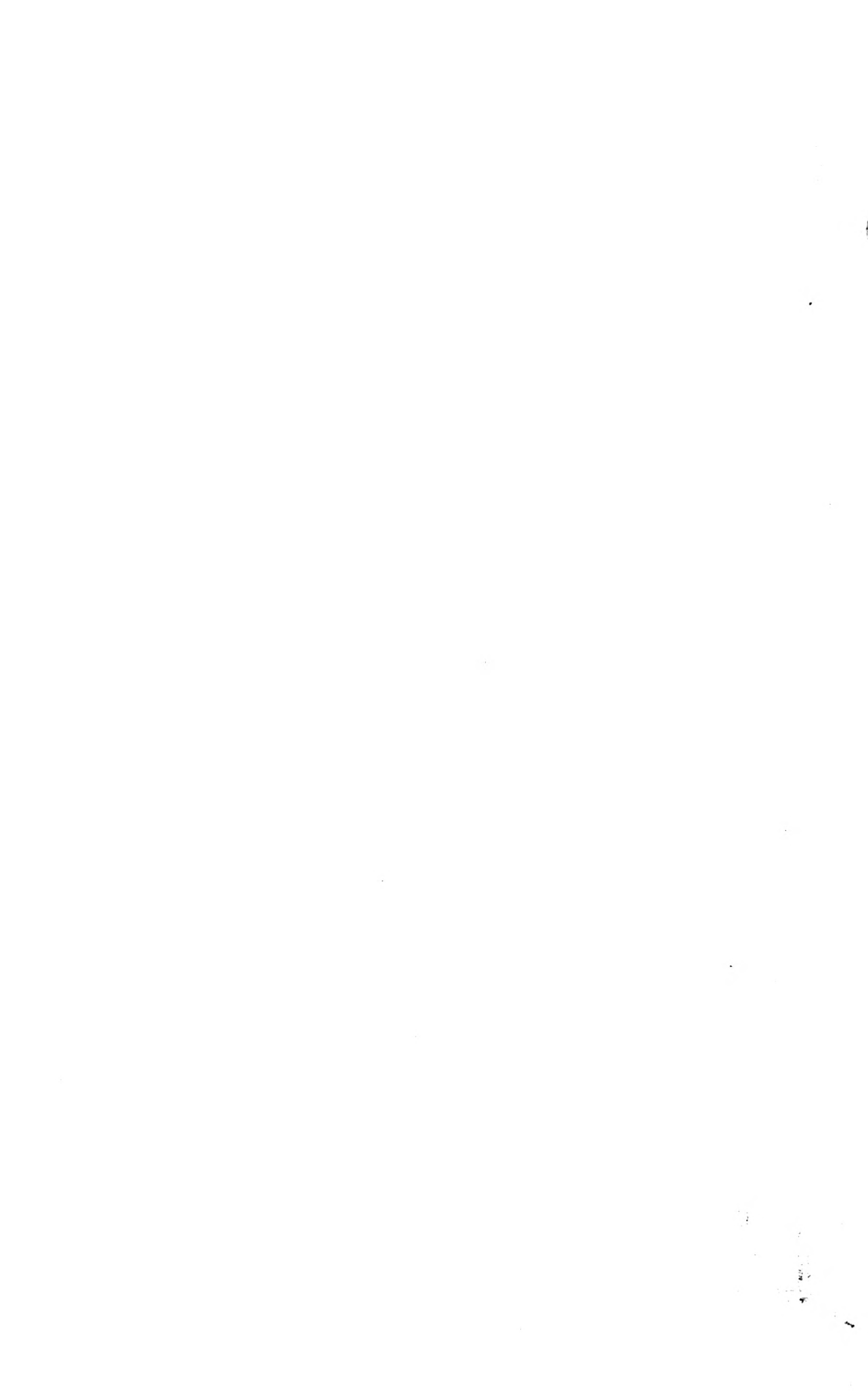


**ANNALS OF KNOX
COUNTY**



ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

...



ANNALS OF
KNOX COUNTY

Commemorating Centennial of
Admission of Illinois as a
State of the Union
in 1818



AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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REPUBLICAN REGISTER PRINT
GALESBURG, ILLINOIS ·



PREFACE

1586
This book is the product of the attempt in 1918 to celebrate the Centennial of the admission of Illinois to Statehood. In accordance with a state-wide movement, designed to preserve the annals of all the counties, and properly to commemorate the creation of Illinois as a State, the County Judge, Walter C. Frank, Superintendent of Schools W. F. Boyes, State's Attorney A. J. Boutelle, County Clerk Frank L. Adams and A. O. Lindstrum, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, were designated by the Hon. Hugh Magill, who had the State work in charge, to form in this county a Knox County Centennial Historical Association, which should originate and carry out in the schools of the county fitting programs, and which should arrange for the collection of material for township annals, that should, with the co-operation of the Board of Supervisors, be published and be preserved in the schools and libraries of the county and in the State Historical Library.

At a meeting held on January 22, 1918, the County Centennial Historical Association was formed with Superintendent W. F. Boyes as president and Fred R. Jelliff as secretary, and with the following advisory committee: Mrs. A. J. Boutelle, president of the Galesburg Woman's Club; Mrs. G. W. Thompson, Mrs. T. C. Minehan, George A. Lawrence, Fred R. Jelliff, William Pearson, president of the Galesburg Trades and Labor Assembly; Professor D. E. Watkins, of Knox College; President J. M. Tilden, of Lombard College, and W. F. Boyes.

General 10 p. 41 Van Horn
At a meeting of this committee on February 5th, 1918, there was appointed a committee, consisting of Professor Watkins, Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Jelliff, authorized to arrange for the material for the township annals. Requests were sent to a well qualified person in each township in March, 1918, and in nearly every instance there was a cheerful response. The late W. L. Steele, so long superintendent of schools of Galesburg, was deputized to prepare a general review of the county annals, while Mrs. R. W. Colville, Mrs. Martha Farnham Webster and George A. Lawrence were authorized to arrange for the marking of historical points in this county.

The advisory committee, of which W. F. Boyes was chairman, also considered and outlined an elaborate program of celebrations for the schools of the county, which was to culminate in a stately and beautiful pageant in Galesburg with the entire county as guests. All plans, however, were interrupted by the dreadful epidemic of influenza, which swept

through the county the fall and winter of 1918, bringing sorrow to many scores of homes. The pageant and many other features of the year's program had to be abandoned. Schools generally were closed to prevent the contagion from spreading.

Meanwhile several of the township historians died. Superintendent Steele suddenly passed away. Illness and other causes delayed some. The committee, however, felt that it was due to those who had so generously prepared manuscripts, to persevere in the preparation of material, with the result, that due to the generosity of the Board of Supervisors, the publication is at last made.

The committee is under great obligations to all who have contributed annals, and to all others who have in any way assisted.

FRED R. JELLIFF, Secretary

WALTER F. BOYES, Chairman

KNOX COUNTY ANNALS

By FRED R. JELLIFF

Knox County was named after General Henry Knox and was established as a county, January 13, 1825.

Knox county has had several and varied shapes. Under the division of Illinois, made in 1790, more than the east half of that part of the State south of the Illinois river was known as Knox county. Changes and further subdivisions were made in 1793, 1801, 1803, 1809. Then the name drops out. In the subdivisions of 1801, 1803 and 1809, its territory was included in St. Clair county. In 1812 and 1813, the subdivision covering much the same ground, was called Madison county, and in this the Knox territory was included until 1821, when that part of the State lying between the Illinois and Mississippi river was called Pike county. In 1823, Pike county was cut down, and Fulton county was laid out so as to include the south four townships of Knox. The rest of the land comprising Knox county and the territory north and east was attached to Fulton county for judicial purposes.

January 13, 1825, Knox county was formed by act of the legislature, covering the same territory as at present (the four townships at the south being accorded it), save that the four north townships were attached to Henry county. This gave Knox sixteen townships. In 1831, however, the row of townships on the north was restored to Knox and two on the east were added. March 2, 1839, these two east two townships were allotted Stark county. This change in the boundaries of the county occasioned interesting incidents of travel, business and politics in the early history of this section.

The land comprising Knox County has been under ten territorial jurisdictions, two of them being under extinct races, one under the Indian race, one under France, one under England, one under Virginia, one a territory of the United States, one the territory of Indiana, one the territory of Illinois and lastly, the State of Illinois.

The history of Knox county is one that reflects honor on Illinois for it has been marked by devotion to high ideals. Illinois was originally a part of the northwest territory which by the ordinance of 1787 was made free soil. As a county of the State Knox has shared this blessing. Illinois was admitted to the Union in 1818, and the issuance of this book is to commemorate the centennial of that event. By the act of June 30, 1821, Pike county was created, including the area north and west of the Illinois river. By the act of February 10, 1826, Knox

County was attached to Fulton county for governmental purposes. May 15, 1830, a public meeting was held at the store of S. S. White, in Henderson, to consider the question of county organization. Dr. Hansford and John G. Sanburn, were authorized to address a petition for the organization of Knox county to Richard M. Young, judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit. This petition was presented to Judge Young at Lewis-town by Pennington, Hansford, Stephen Osborn, the first sheriff and Phillip Hash, and the judge was convinced that the county contained 350 inhabitants, the number required by law, and on June 10, 1830, he declared the county organized, and fixed the date of the first election at July 3, 1830. This was held at the home of Jacob Gum, four miles northwest of Galesburg, the whole county forming one election precinct.

The First Government

Under the constitution of 1818, county government was committed to three commissioners. On July 3, 1830, when the county was organized, Riggs Pennington, Philip Hash, and Charles Hansford were elected, to serve until their successors were elected the following month. They first met at the home of John B. Gum, appointed him clerk, but he, declining to serve, two days later they again met and appointed John G. Sanburn clerk, and Mr. Gum treasurer. On July 17th, the commissioners met again and divided Knox County into two precincts for the coming election, one precinct being known as the Henderson and the other as the Spoon River district. At the election on August 2, 1830, the first board of commissioners for a stated term was elected, the successful candidates being Riggs Pennington, Philip Hash and Alexander Frakes, while Stephen Osborn was elected sheriff. Thus Knox county, organized and empowered to choose its own officers and collect its own taxes, started on its political career. The commissioners had general supervision of the affairs of the county. By the same law which defined its boundaries and located its county seat, Henry county was attached to it for governmental purposes and so remained until 1837. It was an economical and judicious system. The county was then in its primitive state, and roads had to be laid out and constructed, bridges had to be built, a jail and court house had to be provided and other large works undertaken, all of which seems to have been efficiently done.

Government By Judges

By the constitution of 1848, the offices of county commissioners and probate justice were abolished, and the office of county judge created. On him and two associate judges was the power previously exercised by the commissioners in county government, conferred. George S. Lanphere was elected

county judge, and Alfred Brown of Henderson and James M. Hunter of Salem were elected associate judges, November 6, 1849, and they served four years. Their last meeting was held on March 4, 1853. The county on April 5, 1853, adopted township organization and elected supervisors. It has since remained under this system. There had been two previous attempts to change the county government, one on November 6, 1849, and one on November 5, 1850, but as the majority secured was not a majority of all the votes cast at these elections, the proposition failed to carry.

Township Organization

It was shortly after the election of 1849 or on January 14, 1850, that the people of the townships met to select the names for their respective townships. The present names were adopted save these of Cedar, Haw Creek, Copley and Elba. The names chosen for these were respectively, Cherry Grove, Ohio, Ritchfield and Liberty, but these the Secretary of State refused to register and they were accordingly changed to the names they now bear.

The first members of the board of supervisors, twenty in number, met June 5, 1853, and elected Daniel Meek as chairman. Following are the names of the members of the historic First Board:

Indian Point	Daniel Meek
Cedar	E. P. Dunlap
Henderson	Peter Franz
Rio	R. Heflin
Chestnut	Samuel Collins
Orange	Asa Haynes
Sparta	T. H. Taylor
Ontario	Ed Crane
Maquon	J. M. Foster
Haw Creek	W. M. Clark
Persifer	G. W. Manley
Copley	J. O. Stanley
Walnut Grove	Ames Ward
Salem	S. S. Buffum
Elba	J. H. Nicholson
Truro	A. Lapham
Victoria	J. L. Larnagan
Lynn	J. M. Hodgson
Knox	I. P. West
Galesburg	W. S. Gale

Honor is due the memory of this first board for building so well the foundations on which the business of the county has been conducted.

Growth of County Business

The business of Knox County is now conducted from Galesburg, the county seat, and its place of business is the stately Court House Square with its beautiful embellishments of lawn and trees. And still John B. Gum's log cabin on Section 32 in Henderson township was the first seat of justice in the county and was so designated by the commissioners on July 9, 1830. It was a one-story, two-room log structure and was used for county purposes until January 15, 1831. By a law passed January 15, 1831, the county seat was fixed in Knox Township, where the commissioners platted a village, that they first called Henderson, and which afterward was changed to Knoxville. March 12, 1831, the commissioners contracted with William Lewis to erect a log court house and with Parnach Owen to finish it. The total cost was \$395.43. This lumber structure was 28 feet long, twenty-five feet wide, and two stories high. It was occupied in October, 1832. It was soon outgrown and on March 14, 1838, Zelotes Cooley and Alvah Wheeler took the contract for the erection of a new building at Knoxville which was completed May 1, 1840. At the time it was regarded as one of the handsomest buildings in the State, and it is still attractive because of its classical lines. It was the scene of many noted legal battles, and men, who subsequently became famous in State and Nation appeared in cases there. A crude jail was built in 1832 and in 1840 another was erected by Alvah Wheeler. Also on the court house ground at Knoxville was built in 1854 a fire-proof building containing two rooms.

County Seat Contest

Meanwhile Galesburg, due to its railroad facilities, was in population outstripping Knoxville, and there grew up a demand for the removal of the county seat to the larger city. A long and acrimonious contest ensued that lasted for years. The real battle started with the passage of a bill introduced by W. S. Gale, of Galesburg, then a member of the Legislature, for the removal of the county seat. This bill became a law. The election under it was held in April, 1869, but the issues were not settled until January, 1873, when the Supreme Court of Illinois upheld the contention of Galesburg. Through the efforts of friends of Knoxville another election was called and was held on November 11, 1873, which resulted in favor of Galesburg by a vote of 3,785 to 3,309. This ended the controversy.

Under the stipulations by Galesburg, the county was to furnish a place for holding court for ten years, a site for a court house to be constructed in the future, a site for a jail and \$20,000 toward its erection, to provide a site and fire-proof building for a clerk's office, and to pay the expenses of the

transfer of the effects of the county to Galesburg, all of which conditions were honorably and satisfactorily met.

The Court House

The movement for the erection of of a court house on the park site provided began in 1883 with the appointment of a committee to report a resolution. A building committee was appointed, consisting of W. S. Gale, A. G. Charles, William Robson, John Sloan, M. B. Hardin and William H. Leighton. The next year the place of Mr. Charles, who was no longer a member of the Board, was filled by R. W. Miles, and a year still later, L. A. Townsend succeeded M. B. Hardin. The plans of E. E. Myers of Chicago were preferred, bids were finally passed on October 3, and the contract was let to Dawson & Anderson of Toledo, Ohio, for \$114,311.52. The corner-stone was laid June 24, 1885, under the auspices of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Illinois. The edifice was completed January 26, 1887. The cost all furnished was \$156,261, and when completed it was practically paid for. The building is of Berea sandstone, of a pleasing and impressive style of architecture, and contains all rooms necessary for the conduct of all phases of the county business.

The jail was built earlier by Ira K. Stevens in 1874, for \$34,900, and Hon. A. W. Berggren was the first sheriff to occupy it.

The County Home

Another fine institution that the county has maintained for over sixty years is the County Home at Knoxville. For twenty-five years after the organization of the county paupers were farmed out to the lowest bidders. With the adoption of the township system, the board of supervisors bought an almshouse site for \$3,000 of M. G. Smith. The farm house was converted into an almshouse but proved a wretched makeshift. In 1866 the Board of Supervisors determined to erect a new almshouse and R. W. Miles, L. E. Conger and Cephas Arms were appointed a committee on building. After some competition between Galesburg members and Knoxville, the present site, adjoining the old poor farm and comprising then 69 acres, was purchased for \$5,340. The contract for the main building was let to William Armstrong for \$26,000 and its equipment and stocking of the farm brought the total to \$39,037.21. Parry & Stevens built the east wing for \$17,400. An insane annex was erected in 1890 for \$26,459 by Peter Munson, and in 1899 an insane annex for females was built by Munson & Tingleaf at a total cost of \$32,000. A new laundry building was built in 1899 by F. W. Hawkin for \$16,000. The entire group of buildings is one of the handsomest in the state and the

grounds have been developed along artistic lines. Many improvements on and in the buildings have been made from time to time, so that they are supplied with modern facilities.

Growth of Population

The Indians were in Illinois before the Whites and the early settlers of the county were not unmindful of their presence. The Foxes, Sacs, Kickapoos and Pottawatomies roved over the prairies and their trails were used by the early settlers. In the vicinity of Maquon another tribe lived. The flint implements of the Aboriginies are still found in many parts of the county. There are traces of a still earlier race supposed to be identified with the mound builders.

Daniel and Alexander Robinson and Richard Mathews, who came to the county and settled in the edge of Henderson Grove in February, 1828, are credited with being the first permanent settlers, although there is a report that a man named Palmer, a bee hunter, lived in Maquon township in 1826-27. It is certain that the first considerable migrations came from Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, and that they were a substantial and worthy element. The tide of immigration from the east set in in 1836 and with the coming of the Galesburg colony in 1836, the movement of population was accelerated.

Meanwhile in the early annals of the county, the Black Hawk War from 1831 to 1833, growing out of the belief of the Indians that they had been unfairly dealt with, was the outstanding event. In this county a company was raised, to assist in the war, and several forts were erected, one known as Fort Aggie, on Section 27, in Rio township; Fort Lewis, on Section 33, Henderson township; an unnamed fort on Section 10, in Henderson township, and one in Orange township. No harm came to the settlers, although the period was one of much stress and many alarms.

In addition to the immigration from the South and East following the founding of Henderson, Knoxville and Galesburg and the founding of Knox College, the establishment of government, and the improvement of highways, there came groups of foreigners. The Swedes appear to have been first on the field, John Hedstrom arriving in Victoria as early as 1838. But the steady stream did not set in until the completion of the C., B. & Q. railroad to Galesburg in 1854, from which time for several years the growth was rapid. This transportation enterprise with the branches soon afterward constructed from Galesburg and making access to markets easy, gave a tremendous impetus to agriculture, to the building up of towns, and to industrial interests. Settlement, before desultory, now became

rapid. Educational and religious growth kept pace. The large Swedish emigration was augmented by sturdy colonists from Scotland, by the warm-hearted and eager companies from Ireland, and by the quotas from Germany and England. The following figures speak eloquently of the growth of the county:

Date	Population
1830 -----	400
1840 -----	7,060
1850 -----	13,279
1860 -----	28,663
1870 -----	39,522
1880 -----	38,344
1890 -----	38,752
1900 -----	43,612
1910 -----	46,159
1920 -----	46,678

This shows that for two decades between 1870 and 1890 the population was nearly stationary. The building of the Santa Fe late in the 80's and other causes again produced a steady growth in population.

The fact that in the county there was previous to the Civil War a strong anti-slavery sentiment caused a movement of Negroes this way, and this continued after the Civil War, resulting in a large Negro population, especially in Galesburg, where the Negroes have their own churches and where they have proved an industrious and useful element.

Of late years the character of immigration has changed. That from Sweden, Ireland, Scotland and England has become negligible, while that from the southern part of Europe predominates. In Galesburg, more than in any other part of the county, these concentrate. Italians, Hungarians, Roumanians, Greeks and many others not listed in the census. Mexican laborers have in considerable degree supplanted other races on the railroads. It is this large need of common labor that is in great measure responsible for this draft on Southern Europe. The fact that they are proving a worthy element is dissipating the prejudice first created.

The Municipalities

Following are the dates of platting and founding of the municipalities of the county:

Rio -----	Platted in 1871
Oneida -----	Sept. 1, 1854
Altona -----	1854
Victoria -----	May 11, 1849
Wataga -----	In Spring of 1854

Henderson	June 11, 1835
Knoxville	Aug. 7, 1830
Appleton	Spring, 1888
Dahinda	Summer, 1888
Williamsfield	April 24, 1888
Gilson	July 10, 1857
Delong	1882
Abingdon	1836
St. Augustine	1854
Hermon	May 3, 1842
Rapatee	1883
Maquon	Oct. 24, 1836; Inc., 1857
Douglas	Oct. 17, 1856
Uniontown	June 4, 1839
Yates City	Oct. 20, 1857

The influence of railroad construction is clearly evident in the foregoing.

Statistics of Population

The following figures of the population of the county and townships as given in the census returns of 1890, 1900, 1910 and 1920 will be found interesting.

	1920	1910	1900	1890
Knox County	46,678	46,159	43,612	38,752

Townships:

Cedar	2,616	2,543	2,220	1,574
Chestnut	751	748	877	919
Copley	691	799	923	910
Elba	558	619	725	775
Galesburg	1,111	1,029	951	708
Haw Creek	788	826	875	951
Henderson	988	1,076	1,162	1,218
Indian Point	1,624	1,516	1,607	1,496
Knox	2,955	3,263	3,366	2,677
Lynn	608	673	719	742
Maquon	1,108	1,187	1,250	1,330
Ontario	1,211	1,252	1,405	1,137
Orange	662	791	868	851
Persifer	787	881	759	711
Rio	734	899	886	925
Salem	1,360	1,416	1,579	1,677
Sparta	1,142	1,102	1,298	1,293
Truro	1,005	1,194	1,129	865
Victoria	1,091	1,047	1,126	1,179
Walnut Grove	1,103	1,209	1,280	1,350

Municipalities:

Abingdon, City -----	2,721	2,464	2,022	1,321
Altona, Village -----	506	528	633	654
East Galesburg, Village -----	566	753	663	
Galesburg, City -----	23,785	22,089	18,607	15,264
Henderson, Village -----	156	171	170	163
Knoxville, City -----	1,708	1,818	1,857	1,728
Maquon, Village -----	441	472	475	501
Oneida, City -----	563	589	785	699
St. Augustine, Village -----	195	187	229	255
Victoria, Village -----	415	334	329	308
Wataga, Village -----	459	444	545	586
Williamsfield, Village -----	435	480	447	
Yates City, Village -----	582	586	650	687

These figures show that in 1890, there lived in the municipalities of the county 22,166 people, and on the farms, 15,586; in 1900, there lived on the farms 16,700 and in the municipalities, 27,412 in 1910, the municipal population was 30,933 and the farm 12,679, and in 1920, the municipal population is 32,347 and the farm population is 14,363.

The Religious Growth

The early settlers of Knox county, no matter what their origin were religiously inclined, and in an early day the movement for the establishment of churches gained momentum. According to some, the Methodists were first in the field, and organized a society in the neighborhood of Abingdon in 1829 and 1830, from which the Methodist church at Abingdon developed. In 1836 and 1837, the First Presbyterian church was organized by the Galesburg colonists and this afterward grew into the Old First Church, with Congregational tendencies. The county within the next twenty years became a field for active missionary effort and by 1860 the religious work of the county was fully organized. Some of the early pioneer churches no longer exist, but there is no denying that the county is well supplied with all needful agencies for effective religious work.

As many as sixty-five churches have done Christian work in its confines and nearly all of these are in operation at the present time. In addition in some communities, there have been occasional services and Sunday Schools have been maintained in many communities where there were no churches.

The Knoxville Presbyterian Church was organized in 1835. The Lutherans began their fine work in 1851, when the first Lutheran Church of Galesburg was organized. The first Episcopalian church was that in Knoxville, organized in 1843. The first Catholic parish in the county was formed at St. Augus-

time in 1844. The Baptists organized a church in Galesburg in 1848. The Universalists formed a congregation in Galesburg in 1857. Christian Scientists organized in Galesburg in 1886. The Abingdon Congregational Church dates back to 1835 and the Victoria to 1841. Among the later comers are the United Brethren, the Jewish Church in Galesburg, the Salvation Army, the Seven Day Adventists and the Latter Day Saints.

The Methodists probably lead at present in the number of congregations in the county, with the Congregationalists next.

The coming of the railroad gave added impetus to the organization of religious work in the county, and many churches date from about that time.

There have been during the nearly ninety years since Christian work began in Knox county many revivals, some of them of great magnitude and large results.

It is a matter of historical interest that the first Swedish Methodist church in the United States was organized in Victoria.

School Development

The educational facilities of Knox county are equalled by but a few in the Central West. Colleges, Academies, High Schools, Community Schools, Township High Schools and the County Schools, all combine to furnish close at hand the means of mental growth and acquisition. All this has taken place since Franklin B. Barber taught school at Henderson Grove in 1830. The real development began with the appointment of William McMurtry as commissioner to sell lands in this county for school purposes under the act of 1831. The first school district land formed was that of 1837 at Log City, the second was the Hague district, south of Galesburg. Indian Point district was the third.

The system of Public Schools was created by the Act of 1855. More direct supervision of the schools began that year under P. H. Sanford, afterward county judge. At the present time this office of county superintendent of schools is ably filled by Walter F. Boyes.

The first High School in the county was that established in Galesburg in 1867 and it was in that early day regarded as a remarkable achievement.

The following shows the present status of the schools of the county:

Knox County School Facts

Number of persons under 21 years of age-----	16,002
Number of persons of school age, to twenty-one-----	11,517
Number enrolled in elementary schools -----	8,087
In High schools -----	1,542
Total enrollment -----	9,629

High school enrollment is 16% of total.

Number of school buildings -----	192
Number of one-room schools in session this year-----	151
Number of High schools -----	11
District High schools-----	3
Township High schools -----	2
Community High Schools -----	4
Three year High Schools in Non-High school district---	2
Total number of teachers -----	384

High Schools:

District—Galesburg, Knoxville, Abingdon.

Township—Altona, Gilson.

Community—Oneida, Wataga, Williamsfield, Yates City.

In Non-High School District—Maquon, Victoria.

Community Consolidated districts are being organized around Victoria, Rio and Rapatee.

Supplementing this fine and developing system are the following colleges and academic institutions, with the dates of their charters or origin:

Knox College—Galesburg, 1837.

Lombard College—Galesburg, February 15, 1851.

Hedding College—Abingdon, 1851.

St. Mary's School—Knoxville, 1868.

St. Alban's School—Knoxville, 1890.

St. Martha's School—Knoxville, 1914.

Brown's Business College—Galesburg, 1864.

St. Joseph's Academy—Galesburg, 1879.

Corpus Christi College—Galesburg, 1893.

St. Mary's School—Galesburg, 1907.

In addition the Galesburg Lutherans have maintained from an early day a parochial school.

The group of Episcopal institutions at Knoxville, St. Mary's, St. Alban's and St. Martha's were founded by Rev. C. W. Lefingwell, D. D.

The three Catholic institutions of Galesburg were promoted by the Rev. Father Joseph Costa.

Railroads of Knox County

The first railroad in Knox county was that extending from Chicago to Galesburg and completed in 1854 and developing later into the C., B. & Q. For years subsequently railroad development was confined in this county largely to the construction through it of the branches of the Burlington, for all of which Galesburg became a division point. In 1882, there reached here from Havana, the Fulton County Narrow Gauge, afterward acquired by the Burlington. In 1887-8, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe completed and began operating its line from Kansas City to Chicago. The county is thus traversed by two great trunk railroad lines. In addition the Iowa Central built in 1879-80, extends through the southwestern part of the county and the C. R. I. & P. through the northeastern part.

Knox County in War

Knox county has had a glorious part in the wars in which this country has engaged. It is believed that in its cemeteries repose the bodies of soldiers of every war from the Revolutionary down. For years this city was the headquarters of the meetings of the Illinois Mexican war veterans.

In the Civil War, according to a careful compilation made by the late Albert J. Perry, Knox County furnished 4,200 men, distributed among 190 companies and 82 regiments. Of this number 123 were killed, and 168 wounded, 344 died and 96 were incarcerated in rebel prisons. In bounties and aid to the families of soldiers, the county contributed \$400,000.

To the war with Spain, the county sent two companies of the Illinois National Guard, Company C. of Galesburg, commanded by Captain T. L. McGirr and Company D, of Abingdon, in charge of Captain Frank W. Latimer. These companies served in the Porto Rico campaign. Subsequently Captain McGirr and a number of men from this county took part in the Phillipine Campaign.

The War With Germany

The war with Germany is a recent memory and Knox county's part will in every detail be found treated in a volume edited by S. A. Wagoner, and having the assistance of a committee of citizens. Briefly, as nearly as can be ascertained the county furnished 2,200 of its young men for this war, about one-half of whom volunteered, and the rest saw service under the selective conscription act. Many of these engaged in active warfare. Galesburg's Company C was one of the first of the Illinois National Guard organizations to respond. Some of the soldier boys paid the supreme sacrifice. A good many sustained wounds, and many were in the thick of the fighting. The county feels great pride in their patriotic achievements.

The county by its response to the call of the government for funds also gave its soldiers the most substantial backing. This is indicated by the following tables showing the total contributions to each of the four Liberty Loans and the Victory Loan:

First -----	\$ 923,180	\$ 659,600	Not Known
Second -----	1,288,030	1,698,250	7,000
Third -----	1,256,640	2,229,600	10,557
Fourth -----	2,506,900	2,659,900	14,326
Victory -----	1,958,450	2,367,050	6,980
<hr/>			
Totals ---	\$7,933,200	\$9,614,400	

One must add to the foregoing the large sums contributed to the Y. M. C. A., the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the other lines of work to get the full measure of the county's willingness.

It's Political History

Knox county has had an honorable history in the politics of the districts with which it has been affiliated and in the State and Nation many of its residents have held positions of prominence. It's citizens have served abroad in diplomatic capacities, in Congress, in influential State positions and in the State Legislature. The service rendered has been of a high type and has reflected honor on the county.

At the present time Knox county is in the Forty-third Senatorial district, comprised of Fulton and Knox counties, and in the Fifteenth Congressional district, composed of Adams, Schuyler, Fulton, Knox and Henry counties.

It is in the Fifth Supreme Court district, the Second Appellate Court district and the Ninth Judicial circuit.

In Congress

Following is a list of Knox county men who have served in Congress:

John H. Lewis, Knoxville, 1881-1883.

P. S. Post, 1887-1889; 1889-1891; 1891-1893; 1893-1895; re-elected but died January 6, 1895, when entering on fifth term.

George W. Prince, 1895-1897; 1897-1899; 1899-1901; 1901-1903; 1903-1905; 1905-1907; 1907-1909; 1909-1911; 1911-1913. Nine terms.

Stephen A. Hoxworth, 1913-1915.

Edward J. King, 1915-1917; 1917-1919; 1919-1921.

In Constitutional Convention

Joshua Harper represented Knox county in the Constitutional Convention of 1847.

W. S. Gale was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1862.

Alfred M. Craig was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1870.

George Candee Gale is a member of the present Constitutional Convention.

In the Legislature

At various times Knox county has been hitched up in Legislative districts with Fulton, Mercer, Warren and Henderson counties, but since the last re-appointment it has been united with Fulton, and the district has been well satisfied. The changes in the number of the districts are due to the reapportionments from time to time.

The following shows the Knox county men who have served in the Legislature:

Tenth General Assembly, 1836-1838—Peter Butler, represented Warren, Knox and Henry counties; William McMurtry from Knox in House.

Twelfth General Assembly, 1840-1842—Member of House, John Denny.

Thirteenth General Assembly, 1842-1844—Senator, William McMurtry; Member of House, Julius Manning.

Fourteenth General Assembly, 1844-1846—Senator, William McMurtry; Members of House, H. Hardie, Julius Manning.

Fifteenth General Assembly, 1846-1848—Senator, John Denny; Members of House, Ephriam Gilmore, Charles Hansford.

Sixteenth General Assembly, 1848-1850—President of Senate, William McMurtry; 19th district Senator, John Denny; 41st district, Member of House, Henry J. Runkel.

Seventeenth General Assembly, 1850-1852—President of Senate, Wm. McMurtry; 19th District Senator, John Denny; 41st District, Member of House, Henry Arms.

Eighteenth General Assembly, 1852-1854—41st District, Member of House, Thomas McKee.

Nineteenth General Assembly, 1854-1856—58th District, Member of House, Samuel W. Brown, Knox.

Twentieth General Assembly, 1856-1858—58th District, member of House, David H. Frisbie.

Twenty-first General Assembly, 1858-1860—58th District, Member of House, Rufus W. Miles.

Twenty-second General Assembly, 1860-1862—58th District, Member of House, A. A. Smith.

Twenty-third General Assembly, 1862-1864—15th District, Member of Senate, Albert C. Mason; 34th District, Member of House, Joseph M. Holyoke.

Twenty-fourth General Assembly, 1864-1866—15th District, Member of Senate, Albert C. Mason; 34th District, Member of House, Joseph M. Holyoke.

Twenty-fifth General Assembly, 1866-1868—34th District, Member of House, John Gray.

Twenty-sixth General Assembly, 1868-1870—34th District, Member of House, W. Selden Gale.

Twenty-seventh General Assembly, 1870-1872—15th District, Member of Senate, Henry J. Vaughn; 68th District, Members of House, O. F. Price, Joseph F. Latimer, Patrick H. Sanford.

Twenty-eighth General Assembly, 1872-1874—22nd District, Senator, Patrick H. Sanford; Member of House, Jacob S. Chambers.

Twenty-ninth General Assembly, 1874-1876—Senator, Patrick H. Sanford; Members of House, John H. Lewis, Curtis N. Harvey.

Thirtieth General Assembly, 1876-1878—Members of House, Alfred S. Curtis, Joseph F. Latimer, Abraham M. Brown.

Thirty-first General Assembly, 1878-1880—23rd District, Members of House, Rufus W. Miles, Joseph F. Latimer, John Sloan.

Thirty-second General Assembly, 1880-1882—22nd District, Senator, August W. Berggren; Member of House, Hannibal P. Wood.

Thirty-third General Assembly, 1882-1884—22nd District, Senator, August W. Berggren; Members of House, A. S. Curtis, F. A. Willoughby.

Thirty-fourth General Assembly, 1884-1886—22nd District, Senator, August W. Berggren; Member of House, Orrin P. Cooley.

Thirty-fifth General Assembly, 1886-1888—22nd District, Senator, August W. Berggren; Member of House, Orrin P. Cooley.

Thirtysixth General Assembly, 1888-1890—22nd District, Members of House, Orrin P. Cooley, George W. Prince, James W. Hunter.

Thirty-seventh General Assembly, 1890-1892—22nd District, Members of House, James W. Hunter, George W. Prince.

Thirty-eighth General Assembly, 1892-1894—22nd District, Members of House, Jay L. Hastings, Frank Murdock.

Thirty-ninth General Assembly, 1894-1896—35th District, Member of House, Frank Murdock.

Fortieth General Assembly, 1896-1898—35th District, Member of House, Frank Murdock.

Forty-first General Assembly, 1898-1900—35th District, Senator, Leon A. Townsend; Member of House, Charles C. Craig.

Forty-second General Assembly, 1900-1902—35th District, Senator, Leon A. Townsend; Member of House, Charles C. Craig.

Forty-third General Assembly, 1902-1904—43rd District, Senator, Leon A. Townsend; Member of House, Wilfred Arnold.

Forty-fourth General Assembly, 1904-1906—43rd District, Senator, Leon A. Townsend; Members of House, Wilfred Arnold, Michael J. Daugherty.

Forty-fifth General Assembly, 1906-1908—43rd District, Senator, Charles F. Hurburgh; Members of House, Edward J. King, Michael J. Daugherty.

Forty-sixth General Assembly, 1908-1910—43rd District, Senator, Charles F. Hurburgh; Member of House, Edward J. King.

Forty-seventh General Assembly, 1910-1912—43rd District, Senator, Charles F. Hurburgh; Member of House, Edward J. King.

Forty-eighth General Assembly, 1912-1914—43rd District, Senator, Charles F. Hurburgh; Members of House, Edward J. King, W. B. Elliott.

Forty-ninth General Assembly, 1914-1916—43rd District, Members of House, Owen B. West, James E. Davis.

Fiftieth General Assembly, 1916-1918—43rd District, Members of House, Owen B. West, James E. Davis.

Fifty-first General Assembly, 1918-1920—43rd District, Members of House, A. O. Lindstrum, O. B. West.

On State Commissions

The following are serving at the present time by appointment of ~~General~~ *Governor* Lowden as members of State commissions:

On Tax Commission—Charles C. Craig.

On Industrial Commission—Omer N. Custer.

As Ambassador

Col. Clark E. Carr, deceased, served as ambassador to Denmark during the term of President Harrison.

On Supreme Bench

Knox county has given three judges to the Supreme Court of Illinois as follows:

Charles B. Lawrence, June, 1864 to June, 1873.

Alfred M. Craig, June, 1873 to June, 1900.

Charles C. Craig, October, 1913 to June, 1918.

On Circuit Bench

The record in Circuit Court Judges follows, going back to 1873:

Eighth Circuit, Created in 1873—Arthur A. Smith elected in 1873.

Tenth Circuit, Created in 1877—Arthur A. Smith, re-elected June 16, 1879; re-elected June 1, 1885; re-elected June 1, 1891; resigned Nov. 15, 1894.

Ninth Circuit, Created in 1897—George W. Thompson, elected June 18, 1897; re-elected in 1903, 1909, 1915; still on bench.

Judge Thompson also served for years as a member of the Appellate benches of the Second and Third Districts.

Mention of Others

Among the early Lieutenant-Governors of Illinois was William McMurtry, and he in this capacity served the Senate as its president during the Thirteenth and Fourteenth General Assemblies.

In addition to serving his district as State Senator, A. W. Berggren was for a number of years warden of the State penitentiary at Joliet.

Leon A. Townsend, for two terms State Senator, was appointed United States Marshal.

Moses O. Williamson, now president of the Peoples' Trust and Savings Bank, Galesburg, was elected State Treasurer and served one term.

Many other Knox county men have served on various State boards.

Banking in Knox County

The first regular bank in Knox county was a private one founded by Cornelius Runkle in Knoxville, with himself as president and John Babbington as cashier. In 1863, the bank was nationalized. Since that day there has been a great development, until at the present time there are twenty-three banks in the county, including all three types, National, State and private, representing a capitalization of several millions

and a large total of deposits. These institutions all appear to be substantial and well established. In addition there are in Galesburg four Homestead and Loan Associations, representing a large investment.

Agricultural Developments

The agricultural development of the county was accelerated by the inventive genius of its citizens. H. H. May turned out the first steel mould board plow. George W. Brown invented the corn planter. The first threshing machine put in an appearance in 1842 and the first reaper in 1847. In close succession came other implements down to the present time that made production and farming on a large scale possible.

Farm Statistics

The following statistics relate to the farms of the county:

Number of farms in county in 1900	3,086
Number of farms in county in 1910	2,863
Farm area	455,040 acres
Under cultivation	424,381 acres
Land in farms in 1910	432,349 acres
Value in 1910	\$60,776,744
Value in 1900	\$31,164,616
Operated by owners in 1910	1,518
Operated by owners in 1900	1,756
Tenants, 1910	1,294
Tenants, 1900	1,223

Since 1910 the value of land in the county has materially increased. Agriculture is by all odds the largest single interest in Knox county.

During the last few years there has been a marked change in farm methods, equipment and facilities. The tractor is now finding its place among the implements. The telephone is found in most farm homes and in many there are now electric appliances. Modern treatment of soils to increase and preserve fertility is being employed. In years past, farmers had their granges and other organizations and their institutes. The most important agency for promoting crop increases and farm interests is the County Farm Bureau, having the support of the National and State governments as well as of the membership. The Knox County Farm Bureau, which was organized February 28, 1918, now has a membership of 1936, and is one of the strongest in the State. The fee of ten dollars a year for each member provides ample funds for a large work. A central office is maintained in Galesburg. The officers of this Bureau follow:

President—Henry C. Gehring, Altona
 Vice President—W. B. Elliott, Williamsfield.
 Secretary—Ray M. Arnold, Galesburg.
 Treasurer—George A. Charles, Knoxville

Advisory Council—Oliver Nelson, Altona; C. B. Griffith, Galesburg; Elias Hughs, Maquon; E. U. Shumacher, Hermon; Frank Gamel, Rio; M. F. Shea, Henderson; Geo. Bond, Abingdon; C. M. C. Brown, Oneida; Winn Wilmot, Wataga; Marion Shives, Yates City; H. S. Breece, Knoxville; Ed. Moon, Williamsfield; Willim Beals, Altona; Ben Bjorling, Victoria; Ed Taylor, Rapatee; John Stevens, Gilson.

Executive Committee—H. C. Gehring, Altona; W. B. Elliott, Williamsfield, Ray M. Arnold, Galesburg; Geo. A. Charles, Knoxville; C. E. Hartsook, Maquon; J. Harry Shumaker, Abingdon; Willard Miller, Rio; William Beals, Altona; Chas. M. Hunter, Abingdon.

Farm Advisor—E. M. D. Bracker.
 Associate Farm Adviser—Floyd R. Marchant.
 Associate Farm Adviser—Ralph E. Arnett.

This bureau is linked up with the State and National bureaus and is a thoroughly efficient organization, whose work through bulletins, community meetings and institutes, reaches every part of the county.

The County Officers

The list of county officers serving at present follows:

County Judge	-----Walter C. Frank	----Dec. 1922
County Clerk	-----Frank L. Adams	----Dec. 1922
Clerk of Circuit Court	-----Chas. H. Westerberg	--Dec. 1920
State's Attorney	-----Addison J. Boutelle	---Dec. 1920
Sheriff	-----James T. Wheeler	----Dec. 1922
County Treasurer	-----Herbert N. Bloomquist	Dec. 1922
County Supt. of Schools	-----Walter F. Boyes	-----Aug. 1923
Coroner	-----Geo. S. Bower	-----Dec. 1920
County Surveyor	-----Arthur L. Richey	----Dec. 1920
County Supt. of Highways	---Arthur L. Richey	--Mar. 17, 1926

Since the foregoing was written, those whose terms expired in 1920, were re-elected for a four years term.

The Present Board

Of the present Board of Supervisors, 1920, C. H. Upp is chairman. The personnel follows:

Towns	Supervisors
Indian Point	Willard Tinkham
Cedar	A. C. Harvey
Galesburg	Lew E. Wallace
Galesburg City	Fred T. DuVon
Galesburg City	Geo. H. Burgland
Galesburg City	J. G. W. Dopp
Galesburg City	E. R. Everett
Galesburg City	A. V. Rowe
Galesburg City	N. L. Ewing
Galesburg City	C. E. Bowles
Galesburg City	Fred I. Taylor
Galesburg City	James Gaines
Henderson	Andrew Hawkinson
Rio	Milton Deatherage
Chestnut	E. U. Shumaker
Orange	O. L. McElwain
Knox	Clarence R. Lacy
Knox	Arthur H. Pearson
Sparta	J. E. Williamson
Ontario	J. J. Clearwater
Maquon	H. I. Epley
Haw Creek	C. H. Upp
Persifer	Arthur J. Berry
Copley	Robert Gibbs
Walnut Grove	John A. Johnson
Salem	W. E. West
Elba	O. W. Farwell
Truro	Chester H. Pulver
Victoria	Frank Peterson
Lynn	A. L. Appell

Township Officers

Following is a list of the present township officers, 1920, furnished by the county clerk:

TOWN CLERKS:

Elected April 6th, 1920. Term Expires April, 1922

Town	Name
Indian Point	W. H. Clark
Cedar	R. Y. Campbell
Galesburg	John Vedell
Henderson	Reuben R. Fields
Rio	W. A. Brown
Chestnut	Seaton Moon
Orange	Earl Bowman
Knox	Harry Woolsey

Sparta	O. L. Erickson
Ontario	C. V. Conyers
Maquon	P. C. Lafferty
Haw Creek	Earl Snell
Persifer	Dan McQueen
Copley	R. W. Brown
Walnut Grove	S. Harry Johnson
Salem	Edson Bowman
Elba	R. O. Baird
Truro	Frank E. Welsh
Victoria	W. H. Ray
Lynn	Leslie Haxton
City of Galesburg	W. L. Boutelle
(Ex-Officio)	

ASSESSORS:

Elected April 6, 1920, for Term Jan. 1, 1921 to Dec. 31, 1922

Town	Assessor
Indian Point	G. L. Hagan
Cedar	W. H. Robinson
Galesburg	J. H. Marsden
City of Galesburg	Sander Anderson
Henderson	C. J. Shepard
Rio	M. A. Almgreen
Chestnut	Frank Sampson
Orange	Robert Sumner
Knox	W. H. Cronoble
Sparta	William Masters
Ontario	C. A. Peterson
Maquon	Frank Booth
Haw Creek	C. L. Dossett
Persifer	E. W. Farquer
Copley	Thomas Hobbs
Walnut Grove	N. H. Nelson
Salem	B. B. Lawrence
Elba	B. L. Baird
Truro	S. M. Parker
Victoria	W. S. Moak
Lynn	Steve Milliken

COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHWAYS:

Elected April 6, 1920—Terms Expire April, 1922

Town	Commissioners
Indian Point	Isaac T. Perry
Cedar	Jno. McCracken
Galesburg	George Swedlund

Henderson	A. E. Watters
Rio	Arthur Robertson
Chestnut	Mason Headley
Orange	Earnest Thurman
Knox	W. H. Steck
Sparta	O. S. Olson
Ontario	Gust Peterson
Maquon	N. H. McGirr
Haw Creek	W. J. Kinser
Persifer	R. C. Folger
Copley	F. E. Johnson
Walnut Grove	Gust Bjorling
Salem	R. C. Jones
Elba	T. E. Straub
Truro	W. H. Machin
Victoria	J. A. Sandquist
Lynn	George Jones

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE:

Term Expires First Monday in May, 1921

Town	Name
Indian Point	W. H. Clark, S. Gray
Cedar	G. A. Hickman, B. O. Baird
Galesburg	Robert J. Walberg
City of Galesburg	S. M. Meadows, A. B. Pierson, John C. Kost
Henderson	W. B. Nelson
Rio	B. E. Frankenburger, F. M. Epperson
Chestnut	A. F. Bjorklund
Orange	W. H. Wiley, H. H. Holsinger
Knox	A. E. Lucas, William Norris
Sparta	S. R. Parkinson
Ontario	E. C. Hannam
Maquon	J. H. Farquer, M. H. Taylor
Haw Creek	H. E. Snell, John Housh
Persifer	E. J. Steffen, W. H. Montgomery
Copley	P. A. McDowell
Walnut Grove	Oscar McGrew
Salem	W. H. Nash
Elba	
Truro	John Mackie, H. R. Kinson
Victoria	George W. Coleman
Lynn	L. E. Gibbs, A. L. Appell

CONSTABLES:

Terms Expire First Monday in May, 1921

Town	Name
Indian Point -----	S. D. Lomax
Cedar -----	C. M. Hughbanks, A. W. Bolon
Galesburg -----	E. A. Woods
City of Galesburg----	W. G. Kinney, George
Rodecker, Joshua Davis, John W.	Starnes
Henderson---	Victor Peterson, Wm. Erickson
Rio-----	Claus Malmberg, Robert Willett
Orange -----	W. H. Woolsey
Knox----	Geo. W. Witherell, Andrew Spencer
Sparta-----	Wm. Sandeen, G. L. Newberg
Village of Wataga-----	C. G. Bangston
Ontario -----	Mack Foster, S. J. Cox
Maquon-----	T. U. Walters, L. B. Hughbanks
Haw Creek -----	John Housh
Persifer -----	Edward Smith
Copley -----	John Harpman
Walnut Grove -----	O. W. Peterson
Salem -----	P. A. Taylor, Elmer Corbet
Truro -----	B. F. Speer, E. J. Gray
Victoria-----	D. W. Suydam
Lynn-----	F. W. Quick, Steve Milliken

POLICE MAGISTRATES:

City or Village	Name
Abingdon -----	F. W. McClure
City of Galesburg -----	
Henderson -----	H. C. Davison
East Galesburg -----	
Oneida -----	Martin Gehring
Maquon -----	Adam Kinser
Knoxville -----	Wm. H. Dredge
Williamsfield-----	J. M. Griffin
Yates City-----	T. J. Kightlinger

EARLY SETTLEMENTS

By Fannie Wright Bliss

In 1827 four sturdy young men from Sangamon county made a tour through this part of Illinois in search of honey, as large trees often containing a barrel of it frequently were found by bee hunters. They pushed ahead until two well filled trees were found in the timber afterwards known as Henderson Grove of Knox County. They camped for one week on

what is now the line between Knox and Warren counties, but met no other person. These were the first white men to cross the prairies of our county of whom we have knowledge. Two of them, Mr. Gaddial Scott and Mr. Andrew Olson, subsequently returned here to live.

In the following year, 1828, a number of families came to this county to found homes, all settling in what became Henderson township. Daniel Robertson was the first permanent settler of the county. In this group were many family names familiar to us because of their descendants, therefore they are mentioned: Robertson, Mathews, Gumm, Pennington, Osborn, Nance, Coy, Fraker, Greenwell, Sheldon, Voiles, Vaughn, Reynolds, McKee.

During the next year, 1829, came the McMurtry brothers, and Reed, Lewis, Davis and Maxwell. In that same year a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Owen and children settled in what became Haw Creek township, the first settlers to locate outside of Henderson. In 1830 the population increased rapidly. Fraker, Owen and Fitch settled in Lynn township in the edge of a beautiful grove, still known as Fraker's Grove, the first white settlers in the northeast part of the county. Mr. Fraker found an Indian village on the land he had bought from the government. The Indians disputed his right to the land as they said theirs came direct from the Great Spirit. They finally removed to Indian Creek, seven miles east and built another village, but made friendly visits to the Frakers and acquired the habit of coming to the grove in the spring to make sugar and raise "squaw corn."

There was only one traveled road in the county, the Galena trail or State road from Galena to Peoria, through Victoria and Walnut Grove townships.

The law required three hundred and fifty legal voters to live in a county before it could be organized as such, yet there was scarcely that number of individuals within the boundaries of Knox county. When Illinois became a state in 1818, the land now comprising Knox county was a part of Madison county. In 1821 it was placed in the boundaries of Pike county, the oldest county in the Military Tract. In 1826 its present boundaries were determined and it was attached to Fulton county for judicial and recording purposes. In July, 1830, Knox county was formally organized as at present except that two townships were included which, when Stark County was organized in 1837, were severed from Knox and became a part of that county. The town of La Fayette is located in that section.

The first business meeting of the county and the elec-

tion of county commissioners were held at the residence of John B. Gumm, Henderson township, about four miles northwest of Galesburg's present site near the south edge of Henderson Grove. This house was a one-story double log cabin, each division containing but one room. This building served as dwelling, hotel, post office, also temporary seat of justice until the log court house was later built at Knoxville. I am told that this same historic building or at least one part of it, is still used on a farm in this county in sufficiently good condition to serve as a corn crib in spite of its being nearly one hundred years old. How appropriate it would be if the county could purchase and restore it to its former condition and place it in Lincoln Park near its first location, to be furnished with mementoes of those early days, so that the descendants of the pioneers might have some idea of the way their ancestors lived!

During this same July, 1830, the county of Knox was divided into two districts for election of justices of peace and constables in each. The first, or Henderson district, included fourteen townships north of a line separating Galesburg township (as known at present) from Cedar township. The second or Spoon River township, included all south of the same line and contained eight townships.

The citizens of the county soon aspired to the erection of a court house and the building of a town. They therefore, in 1831, procured from the State Legislature an act defining the location of the county seat and authorizing commissioners to lay off the town which was on the S. W. Quarter of Section 28, Knox Township. This county seat was christened "Henderson" by the Legislature but re-named Knoxville by that same body two years later in honor of General Knox. The county bought the land on which the business and much of the residence portion of Knoxville now stand for \$200, at one dollar and a quarter an acre, being government or congress land, as it was called. In the spring of 1831 lots were staked out and publicly auctioned off, seventy-nine lots being sold, varying in price from two dollars to sixty, aggregating \$1,256.

That portion of Illinois known as the Military Tract includes all land between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers south of the north line of Bureau and Henry counties. It was given to the soldiers of the war of 1812 in quarter sections. When it was laid off into counties most of them were named after military heroes of the nation. Our county was named for the statesman-general, Henry Knox, Secretary of War under Washington and a warm personal friend of his.

If a line be drawn from Galesburg through Vincennes, Indiana, and extended to Kentucky, it will penetrate the heart of the "Blue Grass Country." Along that line as a main chan-

nel poured the tide of emigration from Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia.

Up to 1832, the year of the Black Hawk War, Knox county settlers came mainly from these states or from temporary homes in southern Indiana and Illinois. Emigration from the Eastern states started in full force in 1836, the year of the arrival of the Galesburg Colony at Log City. From that time southern emigration began to decline and New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio supplied the majority of the emigrants. The first considerable European accession was a Scotch settlement in the northeast part of the county, mostly in Copley township. Later influenced by Rev. Jones Hedstrom, a Methodist clergyman, who came from Sweden and then lived in Victoria, a large number left the Bishop Hill colony of Swedish settlers in Henry county and settled on farms near Victoria. Steady immigration from Sweden followed, the descendants of whom form a large and valued part of our population.

The Irish first appeared in numbers much later, in 1854, with the advent of the railroad, and now occupy large holdings in the county.

After the founding of Galesburg with its strong anti-slavery sentiment, the town became known as a prominent station of the "Underground Railroad," and so many colored people received help and kindness on their way farther north to freedom that when it was no longer necessary for them to cross the border into Canada to insure safety, it was not strange they came in increasing numbers, largely from Missouri, to make their homes in a neighborhood in which public sentiment had always been favorable to them. However, they have not been widely scattered through the county, evidently preferring to live near their churches in Galesburg.

But before many more years pass, Knox county can celebrate the centennial anniversary of her settlement. How great have been the changes in conditions during the three generations embraced in one hundred years! It may be interesting to consider some of the prominent characteristics of pioneer life as the old settlers of this county knew it.

They universally settled in the timber or along its edge, the trees furnishing not only material for their cabins, but that protection from the driving storms which was greatly needed, as many of the homes were hastily built and not finished thoroughly at first. The timber also sheltered stock until sheds and outbuildings could be put up. Here, too, was nature's lumber yard, where the settler could find material for home-made furniture to add to the small stock he had brought with him. The fuel supply also was close at hand. And two

kinds of sweetening were secured from the timber, the sap which when boiled down furnished maple syrup and sugar, and the wild honey found in the bee trees containing many gallons, sometimes a barrel or more. The same natural storehouse supplied casks for it, made from hollow basswood logs, some times three feet long, one end of which was plugged up, and the casks were used for years. A similar method was used in making the hand corn-mills used by many of the original settlers; these were made by boring a hole in the top of a large stump, then burning it out in the shape of a mortar. Attaching a pounder to a long, bent spring-pole, they pounded their grain and corn, making unbolted meal or flour. This when mixed to a dough was placed on a smooth board or piece of iron, placed slanting towards the fire-place. When lard was abundant the well-shortened bread was called "Johnny Cake." Sometimes the dough was baked in lumps called "Corn Dodgers." If the dough was raised with yeast and baked in a "Dutch oven," it was called "Pone." Hominy, roasted corn and mush and milk were eaten commonly also.

The timber gave shelter to many wild animals which made good eating for the settlers. Wild fruits and nuts added to the family bill of fare and nuts and acorns formed no small part of the food for the hogs they raised.

There being no mills to grind the grain of the first crops those who could grind by hand power did so, while others grated corn in the ear before it became quite hard on tin graters made from old buckets or pans closely perforated and nailed on a board. Mr. Fraker, whose settling in Lynn township has been mentioned, made a hand mill for grinding grain which stood in the living room and had burrs about two feet in diameter, made from stones, which were called "hard-heads."

The women as well as the men had their share of arduous labor to perform. Spinning was a common household duty. The "little wheel" was used for spinning flax, the "big wheel" for spinning yarn, while quite a number of homes had looms set up on which they did weaving for themselves and for others.

But not all the labor and privations of the early settlers were a series of unmitigated toils and sufferings. They had their times of fun and enjoyment and managed to break the monotony of their daily life with "quilting bees," "apple parings," when the fruit was pared, cored and quartered, strung like bead chains and festooned on the walls to dry; "corn-huskings," when both sexes gathered, chose sides, husked fast and furiously to see which side finished the allotted work first, variety being furnished by the occasional finding of the cov-

eted red ear with its osculatory reward.

Regarding the pioneers' schools it may be readily understood the accommodations were not good at first, as the homes were not, but they felt the education of their children could not wait for better buildings. A "mud-and-stick" chimney in one end of the building, with earthen-hearth fireplace, wide and deep enough to take in a four-foot backlog and smaller wood to match, served for warming the school house in winter. For windows, part of a log was cut out on either side and the hole was filled with a few small panes of glass or maybe greased paper. Writing benches were made of wide planks or else puncheons, resting on pins driven into two-inch auger holes, bored into the logs beneath the windows. Seats and flooring were also made from puncheons. Everything was plain and rude, but many of America's greatest men have gone out from just such school houses, who have become an honor to their country.

In the summer of 1833, in Section 14 of Henderson Township, the first school in that vicinity was taught and second in the county. It has some peculiar characteristics; there were no regular hours for recitations, but the teacher began school with the arrival of the first pupil, closing about sun-down. The boys "made their manners" and the girls made a "curtsy" on entering and leaving. This was known as a "loud" school, because all studied aloud. When studying arithmetic they were permitted to go into the woods, where it was more quiet, to get their lessons.

No mention of the public schools of Knox county should omit the name of Mary Allen West as being inseparably connected with them. Born in the county in 1837, truly a child of the Galesburg colony, educated entirely in the Galesburg district schools and in Knox Seminary, she was in a position to realize the deficiencies in the earlier system of public instruction and later devoted her influence as an instructor prominent among state and national educators to upbuilding and improving the system of county schools. In this work her efforts were second only to those of Professor Geo. Churchill and Dr. Newton Bateman.

Those who are seeking homes will always select those communities in which the school house and the church find a special recognition, rather than those in which they are not found. It has been said that the early establishment of religious institutions in new settlements is a prominent feature in the history of this county. With the very first settler came good old Elder Gumm, who preached almost every Sunday in some of the cabins at Henderson. The oldest religious organization in the county was known as the "Henderson Church,"

organized at Henderson Grove in 1830, under the Old School Predestinarian Baptists, the church building being in Rio township.

Knoxville was made an appointment on the Henderson Mission of the Methodist Episcopal church in 1831. Abingdon M. E. Church was organized in 1833, with seven members. Abingdon Cumbreland Presbyterian Church was organized at Cherry Grove in 1835. In Salem township a M. E. Church was organized in 1836. The history of the old "First Church of Christ," founded by the Galesburg colony is unique, having passed through no period of infantile growth but being strong from the time of its organization. More than thirty families were located in cabins on the south side of Henderson Grove in the fall of 1836 in what they called Log City, waiting for the following spring when they were to begin the erection of buildings on the prairie site bought and platted by them as Galesburg. Before the arrival of their regular minister one or another of the men of the company read a sermon in one of the most commodious homes each Sabbath to a crowded house, as the congregation included colonists not only, but also the earlier Southern settlers along the edge of the grove. The following spring the Galesburg colony began to build and occupy their prairie city homes and in 1837 their church was declared organized as a Presbyterian body, although it became known as a "Mother of Churches" from the number of other denominations that have become outgrowths and off-shoots from the parent body.

This brings this introductory sketch to a close, as the object of the writer has been to give a brief outline of those pioneer settlements which preceded the advent of the large Eastern colony, as after that time the "course of empire" took its way westward with rapid strides. Also as others have written more particularly of other townships of Knox county, the object of this article is to make especial mention of the early settlements of Henderson and Knox townships.

No more fitting expression of the spirit that actuated the early settlers of this county could be given than is found in the following beautiful sentiment.:

"With widening vision in the plain they stood,
And gazed with eager eyes the country o'er;
Beheld her prairies and pronounced them good,
And rested, satisfied to seek no more.

For them the sowing and the toil, the tear,
Where others reap with laughter and delight,
So cooling springs refresh the desert drear
From sources hid in some far mountain height."

(From "The Pioneers" by George Candee Gale.)

TOWNSHIPS

CEDAR TOWNSHIP

By Mrs. A. I. Sargent

A township is not large, yet, he who tells its story realizes how many people live within its borders and how much has been lived during the decades that are past. It is impossible to tell it all. I will sketch briefly the first ten years of the township's settlement as the pioneer days, will tell something of the schools and churches that have been influential in its development and of the men and women who started them, will gladly pay tribute to those who went from its borders at their country's call, and will mark a few of the noteworthy enterprises in which its citizens have had a share. Most of the story will center around Abingdon and its vicinity, for here the first settlement was made and here is the larger portion of its population.

Cherry Grove, our fathers thought to call this township, because of the abundance of wild cherry trees, but, finding that name already pre-empted, they changed to Cedar, a name suggested by a certain cedar tree, which, as a seedling, Joseph Latimer had dug up on his journey into this new, wild country and had planted with the planting of his home.

Some government claims had been taken in the township and land transfers made before the time of permanent settlement, so that some of the early settlers bought or traded for their land and some filed claims. Government land was \$1.25 per acre. In those early days, most of the Western and Eastern borders of the township were irregularly but heavily timbered. Much has been cut away but beautiful timber may still be found in these sections. Between its wooded borders, stretching from north to south, were miles of fertile prairie.

Pioneers

Henderson Township is always spoken of as having the earliest settlers in the county. It is not probably fully realized that Cedar was settled the same year and only a few months later.

Among the families I shall mention as pioneers in Cedar Township, it is interesting to note that more than half are from the middle southern states, Maryland, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and the Carolinas. These settlers were very largely of the sturdy Scotch-Irish stock, to which the Histor-

ian, Fiske, pays such warm tribute of praise, in showing their enterprise as pioneers and their prominence in legislative life.

The first recorded settlers in Cedar Township were Rev. Hiram Palmer, a Methodist preacher, and a little later, Azel Dorsey, who settled in 1828, as near neighbors on Sections 7 and 18. In less than a year, Dorsey sold out his claim to a Mr. Finch, who also soon sold out and both men left for other places. Hiram Palmer moved four years after his coming onto Section 32, where the Abingdon cemetery now stands. The first settlers whose life was built up surely and lastingly into the life of the community was Abraham D. Swartz, who arrived with his wife in 1829, settling at first on Section 17, but moving soon, perhaps with Hiram Palmer, onto Section 32. It was Mr. Swartz who laid out Abingdon, but that was seven years later.

The winter of 1830 is always characterized as the "winter of the deep snow." There are no records to tell how these first lonely settlers weathered the storms of that notable winter but there is no doubt about the glad welcome they extended to Joseph Latimer when he arrived with his family early in 1831. Joseph Latimer, who settled on Section 29, came to Illinois from Robertson county, Tennessee, having gone thither many years before by ox wagon from the family home near New London, Connecticut. As a young boy he had watched the burning of New London by the British and cried because he was not old enough to bear arms. His father, Jonathan Latimer, served in the French and Indian War and was a Colonel in the Revolutionary War. Six sons, older brothers of Joseph, also served in the Revolutionary War, all of them at some time under their father's command. Two, one a Major and one a Captain, died in the defense of Bunker Hill.

Mrs. Joseph Latimer, who shared the pioneer days in Cedar township with her husband, came from North Carolina and used to tell the story as she remembered it, of the raid of Tarleton's men on her father's home and how the British carried off everything they wanted from the house and cut the rim of her mother's spinning wheel. Six sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Latimer had been married in Tennessee, all but one of whom later followed their parents to Knox county. Five children came with them and as they all figure in this story, I will name them: George, John, David, an unmarried daughter, Susan, and a widowed daughter, Mrs. Sarah L. Boren.

Mrs. Boren at once took up a claim of her own and settled with her children near her father on Section 29.

George added to the early settlement in the following

manner: In the Fall of 1831, some business necessitated a trip to Vandalia, at that time the capitol of the state, and George Latimer was sent on this errand. In Sangamon county a few miles south of Springfield, he stopped over night at the home of William Drennan, a man of prominence in that community, where the guest was served by Mr. Drennan's seventeen-year-old daughter. They had not met before and did not meet again until just a year from the time of his first visit George Latimer went back to claim her as his bride. Their wedding journey was the trip on horseback through the glory of the October woods from Sangamon county into Knox county where he had a log cabin ready for his bride on Section 29. Here they established a rarely happy and influential home.

The same year, Jonathan Latimer and family, Joseph's oldest son, came up from Sangamon county where they had temporarily resided and settled on Section 28. With them, and settling near them on the same section, came Mrs. Latimer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob West. Jonathan Latimer was a man of marked character, who figured largely in the community for many years. He began his business career in the township by trading a horse for the land upon which he settled. He was ever a trader but combined a shrewd knowledge of values with a kind and generous heart. He has one son still living in Cedar township, Hon. Joseph F. Latimer, three times elected to the Legislature, whose home stands right where his father's log cabin was built in 1832.

In 1833, Dennis Clark, then a young man, afterwards Knox County Judge, came up from Sangamon County and found a home with Mr. and Mrs. George Latimer. He had known Mrs. Latimer before her marriage.

In 1833, Susan Latimer married Urban D. Coy, the first marriage to take place in Cedar Township. Soon afterwards, they settled on Section 21.

The same year, John Latimer left the parental roof and became the first permanent white settler in Indian Point Township.

Another married son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Latimer, Alexander, arrived with his family in '34 and settled on Section 21. About the same time, came a son-in-law, Israel Marshall, and his wife Mary Latimer or "Aunt Polly" as she was generally known. They settled on Section 31. Israel Marshall brought with him from Tennessee some fine-blooded stock, the first to be brought into a township which later had a wide reputation for its high grade stock.

There were thus, in the first four years of the decade from 1830 to 1840, six Latimer families all settled near each other

in the Cherry Grove neighborhood and one just over the line in Indian Point Township.

About this time, other settlers were arriving in other parts of the Township. Josehua Bland came in '33, settling with his family on Section 16. The story comes down to us of a "corn cracker mill" owned by Mr. Bland. It stood near where the Heller School house now stands and although a primitive affair, run by horse-power, it ground many a grist of corn for the scattered neighbors who were thankful not to be obliged to go as far as Ellisville, on Spoon River, to get their corn ground. A few years ago, Stewart Williamson, a grandson of Mr. Bland's, had the old mill post around which the horses or oxen plodded their monotonous way, dug up and made into canes.

Early Comers

There was early a scattering settlement along the eastern timber border. The year 1834 saw the arrival in the township of seven families with staying qualities. All but one settled in the eastern portion of the township. The one exception was Wm. Kays, who, with his wife, came from Kentucky, stopping temporarily in Indiana, and established his home on Section 8, about three miles north of the Latimer settlement.

Hugh A. Kelly, prominent in township life for many years, and his wife, came from West Virginia and settled on Section 15.

The Castle brothers, coming also from West Virginia with temporary stops along the way, took up claims, Reuben and Henry on Section 12 and George on Section 26. They were all prosperous farmers and good citizens. Two grandsons of George Castle, George and Thomas, sons of Vinton Castle, are living now in Abingdon.

Onto Section 1 came William Thomas Williamson with his wife and family of young people. He came here from Indiana where he lived for a time, but his boyhood home was in New England. His father had been a soldier in the Revolutionary War and once when he, with others, was hard pressed by the British; he had dropped out of sight behind a log and the British had passed him by unseen, he thus escaping capture. Mr. Thomas Williamson's sons and daughters married and many of them settled around him where they were highly respected citizens. His son, James, married a daughter of Mr. Bland's and they, with their married sons and daughters, later became, and some still are especially identified with the neighborhood around Warren Chapel. Squire Frank Williamson and Stewart Williamson, of Galesburg, are the sons of James Williamson. He also has descendants in and around Abingdon. Children and grandchildren of James Williamson were fond of

hearing him tell of riding over the site where Galesburg later stood, when the only road was the Indian trail from Henderson to Brush Creek, which crossed the goodly stream of Cedar Fork where Leroy Marsh's horse barn now stands.

With the Williamson's, came Daniel Green Burner, a native of Kentucky, who resided in Sangamon County before coming to Knox. Abraham Lincoln boarded at Green Burner's father's home for four years in New Salem and he and Lincoln slept together. When the Burners left their home in New Salem to come to Knox County, it was Abraham Lincoln who drew up the deed of sale. Green Burner settled on Section 1 and from that time on through a long life he was closely identified with this part of the township. He added many fertile acres to those originally taken up until he was the owner of more than one thousand. The widow and part of the family of his son, Milton, are now living in Cedar Township, a few miles north of Abingdon.

Settling as near neighbors to the Williamson's and Burner's and coming the same year, was the Swartz family, which from that day to this have been prominent in the Brush Creek neighborhood. Albert Swartz and his sisters, Miss Mary and Miss Sarah Swartz, are still living on the original farm, now beautiful cultivated, which was occupied by their grandfather in its wild state, while their brother Thomas lives on his own farm across the road.

The seventh family to arrive that year was that of George Long, who came from Ohio. They spent their first winter in Knoxville, and the next year settled upon the farm on Section 12, where some wooded land then purchased is still owned by members of the Long family. Two sons of Mr. Long, George and William, when returning home from the mill at Henderson, were caught in a snow storm and lost their way on the wide prairie where Galesburg now stands. They wandered around, through the growing darkness until they came upon a little stream to the southward that they knew and so found their way home. The township is indebted to the Long family for many years of teaching in its public schools. George Long, the son of George Long, taught school as a young man and put his earnings into the first payment for an eighty acre piece of prairie land, paying for it \$5.00 per acre. His sister, Martha Long, was a teacher in Cedar Township and Knox County for a number of years, and his daughter, Miss Jennie Long, taught in the public schools of the county for 38 years, part of the time in Cedar Township and for 29 years in the city of Galesburg. Another daughter, Miss Catherine Long, was prominent in W. C. T. U. work, for eight years being State Superintendent of its Department of Work for Soldiers

and Sailors of Illinois. These two daughters are now living in Galesburg.

Largely through the efforts of their mother, Mrs. Geo. Long, a Sunday School was started in an early day in the Brush Creek School House and maintained through many difficulties. This Sunday School kept up more consecutive years of service than any country Sunday School in the Township.

An early wedding in the township was that of Miss Mary Long with Reuben Castle.

Settling on Section 11 along the road traveled by the pioneers in their trips to Knoxville for trade, was another worthy family, who, among the first to arrive in 1835, have descendants living in Knox County. This was Thomas Marsh and his wife, the parents of LeRoy Marsh, Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Crawford of Galesburg.

With them came Elisha Humiston and family who settled nearby. Mr. Humiston later moved on to Section 17. In the northwest part of this section is a small, fenced-in grave yard, known as the Humiston Burial Ground.

Before turning to other localities, mention should be made of Lewis Spurlock and Williams Bevins. Both came in '34 and settled on Section 23. So far as I know, none of their descendants are now left in the county, but they had a place in the community life in the early days for Lewis Spurlock was a great deer hunter and William Bevins was a great bee hunter, and the venison and honey they brought in for the little colony were much enjoyed. The Spurlock name is also associated with other parts of the township.

In the northwest corner of the township, near where Warren Chapel now stands, Uziah Conger, coming from New York State, settled in the early thirties. His family of nine sons and one daughter grew up around him here, some of them marrying and living in the neighborhood for many years. Here were spent the boyhood of Edwin H. Conger, who, when Ambassador to China, won the gratitude of the Chinese people for his valuable advice in helping settle the indemnity money question, after the Boxer uprising and who gave the rich and beautiful banner, presented to him by the Chinese people, to Lombard College. He was a grandson of Uziah Conger and the son of Lorentus, who served the county on its Board of Supervisors at the time of the Court House fight. Here also grew up Seth Conger, another grandson, later identified with business interests in Galesburg, whose son Frank L. Conger is at the present time cashier in the First National Bank of that city.

Into this neighborhood also, at a somewhat later date, came Ralph Mount. Two of Mr. Mount's sons, Thomas and William, owned farms and lived for many years along the main road between Abingdon and Galesburg. It was one of his sons also who failed to return home at the close of the Civil War and his brothers and sisters, supposing him dead, divided his portion of the estate among themselves, when suddenly one day he arrived home all alive and well and they gave it back again.

Into this northwest section of the Township (Section 6) in 1836, came Francis Portus Goddard whose son, Uncle Jimmy Goddard, a veteran of the Civil War, lives there still.

In the central north portion of the township, in 1835, Benjamin Marks who came from Kentucky, was the first to stake a claim out on the open prairie. "You will freeze in winter," they told him, but the fierce winter winds blew the snow banks around and clear over his little cabin and kept it snug and warm. Benjamin Marks' son, Pleasant, has long owned the farm on which his father settled, adding to it many acres of his own and is proud to tell of this land having been in the Marks family for 83 years.

Other early names in this general locality are Garrett, McPherran, Lowrey, Nelson, Crawford, Belden, Bundy and Snyder, who later lived in Abingdon and added Snyder's addition to that town.

Because of her long residence in the township, "Grandma Reed" should be especially mentioned. She and her husband, John Reed, settled in the edge of the timber southwst of Benjamin Marks' home in '36. The location was near an excellent spring and had been a favorite camping ground for the Indians before the Black Hawk War. After her husband's death, Mrs. Reed, who was born near Edinburgh, Scotland, continued to live in this part of the township, spending her last years in the home of her son-in-law, James Kays. She lived to be ninety-seven years old. James Kays' son, Reed Kays, is living on the Reed farm today.

The Dunlap family, prominently connected with the township's life, came during the latter half of that first decade. Henry Dunlap, with his two sons, Edmund and Jackson, and his daughter, Mary, took the long journey on horseback from Kentucky to Illinois, Knox County and Cedar Township. They arrived early in '37 and settled just north of Cherry Grove, the father on Section 20, and Edmund making a home for his bride of a few months on Section 19, where his twin daughters, Alice and Ellen, still live. Edmund Dunlap paid \$100.00 for his original one hundred and sixty acres. A few months later, Mrs.

Henry Dunlap, with her children and Edmund's young wife, arrived to complete the home circles. They came by boat down the Ohio and up the Mississippi to Oquawka, bringing their household goods with them. They brought also a colored woman, whom Mrs. Henry Dunlap's father had presented to his daughter to be nurse for her first baby. Henry Dunlap, as the law required, went security for her good behavior. Aunt Phyllis, as she was generally known, lived to be very old and acted as nurse to four generations of Dunlap children.

So far as is known, the only one now living who remembers coming to Cedar Township in that first decade is J. W. Stephens, who, when a lad of thirteen, came with his father, in 1838, and settled on Section 16. Mr. Stephens is ninety-three years old, a tall, well-preserved man, whose memory is clear and who abounds in many and interesting reminiscences. His father, when he came, bought of Mr. Kays eighty acres of fenced and improved land for which he paid \$10.00 per acre. The original Stephens' land is now owned by J. W. Stephens' son, Charles, and so has been in the Stephens family since '38. Mr. Stephens tells of his first trip to the village of Knoxville the summer of their arrival where he saw the old Court House, the one now standing, in process of erection. Its walls at that time were up about four feet.

The decade of the forties saw the township rapidly filling up. I will not trace its population farther with just one exception. I want to mention Isaac Hunter, who, with his brother-in-law, Mr. Jordan, came from New England to Peoria in 1839 and on to Knox County and Cedar Township in '41, building a log cabin on Section 23. Here he lived for many years. At the time of his sojourn in Peoria in '39 and '40, it was a town of seven hundred inhabitants. Later Mr. Hunter drove a stage coach between Peoria and Rock Island but the story most often told of him is of how he and Mr. Jordan drove 1,000 sheep across country from Massachusetts to Illinois, the trip taking one hundred and twenty-two days.

Early Conditions and Experiences

Now that the township is furnished with inhabitants who have gotten a firm foothold it is time to hear a few tales that have come down to us of these early days.

It is natural to wonder whether or not the early settlers were troubled by Indians. There are indications that, at a still earlier day, the Indians had had favorite camping places on Cedar Township land, especially in the vicinity of Brush Creek. Leroy Marsh tells of plowing his father's farm when he was a boy and finding many arrow heads and once the skull of an Indian. There are some reasons for thinking they favored

other localities in the Township but none were very pronounced. Indians frequently found their way to the homes of the settlers and often frightened them, but there is no record of their being distinctly hostile.

Something of the terror of the Black Hawk War days in '31 and '32 was felt by the pioneers of Cedar Township, although all alarms proved false. Mrs. Joseph Latimer, looking from her door just at dusk one evening, saw that some kind of visitors were approaching. They were coming single file almost completely hidden by the tall prairie grass. She instantly thought of Indians but her alarm was quieted when she saw Mrs. Swartz with her children. Lonely and afraid, they had come to spend the night, Mr. Swartz being away from home.

From the little settlement at Cherry Grove, the name given to the neighborhood where the Latimers first settled, consisting of three or four families, George Latimer and U. D. Coy joined the volunteer rangers in the Black Hawk War. George Latimer was first lieutenant when the little volunteer band was formed. How rank was determined at that time, I do not know but always after the Black Hawk War, these two men were known as Colonel Latimer and Major Coy. Each of the Rangers furnished his own horse. One hundred guns were brought from Rock Island to Oquawka and from there by wagon to Knox and Warren Counties. The men from these counties ranged as far as the Mississippi river in the vicinity of Oquawka. They were gone from home more than two months and did good guard service, although engaging in no battles. Each man was paid eighty-six cents per day for himself and horse.

About the Indians

In the years following the Black Hawk War, the Indians almost all crossed the Mississippi either voluntarily or taken to reservation lands by the government. A large band of Indians very early camped in their westward journey on a hill south of Jonathan Latimer's home. A granddaughter of his, in a school composition when she was quite young, tells a little incident of this Indian Camp in these words: "One little Indian shot another, and the murdered boy was buried on the hill, with his head to the north and his heels to the south, with his pipe, tobacco, guns and his valuable trinkets, beads, furs and feathers also. Being a chief's son, there was a great "Pow-wow" at his death. My Aunt Emily attended the funeral and remembers distinctly about it." By Indian rule, the little boy who shot the other should forfeit his life but Colonel Sands, who was conducting the Indians westward, succeeded in arranging a compromise whereby the parents of the boy that was killed received certain valuable gifts. While these nego-

tiations were being made, the boy was kept in hiding in the Brush Creek woods.

A very large company of Indians, estimated at from five hundred to seven hundred, accompanied by government officials, on their way to western reservation land, crossed the township, camping over night by Brush Creek. Leroy Marsh, then a little boy, visited the camp which was about half a mile from his father's farm and was badly frightened by their yells to each other. One of the government teamsters, accompanying the Indians, was taken ill and left at the Marsh home where he was cared for for several weeks.

The log cabins of the first settlers have been often described. The more pretentious ones had two large rooms with an intervening space, roofed, and enclosed on one side. Each room had its large fireplace with cooking accommodations and a bed or beds and trundle beds, a spinning wheel and sometimes a loom. The construction of such dwellings was not a lengthy process. Neighborly helpfulness was universal. Mr. Stephens tells an incident which illustrates this. Wm. Kays had eight daughters and one son. Two married daughters were early left widows and returned to their father's house with their children. It is easy to see that the family were undesirably numerous, considering the log house accommodations, so a day was set, the neighbors all came early, cut and hauled the timber, and in one day put up a log cabin of the double kind just mentioned, so that one daughter and her family had one end and the other, the other. In like manner, when Alexander Latimer's log house burned down, the neighbors gathered and helped him put up another. Here again in one day, the trees were cut down and the building erected. The next day, he put down the puncheon floor, cut some windows and made some furniture and that evening the family moved in. Alexander Latimer's one chief regret in connection with the burning of his log cabin was that a number of letters written by Abraham Lincoln to himself were destroyed. He had served under Lincoln in the Black Hawk War and was greatly attached to him.

Soon after Jonathan Latimer came, his horses strayed away and he was gone several days hunting for them. The finishing touches had not been put upon his cabin and their only door was a bed tick hanging down from the top, weighted at the bottom with straw. So plentiful were the wolves at that time that during the three nights of his absence, Mrs. Latimer had to keep a bright fire burning in the fireplace to keep the hungry animals from coming in. Wolves were great pests to the early settlers, especially in their propensity to carry off the sheep, for almost everyone owned some sheep, upon which they depended for the wool to be carded, spun and woven into blankets and clothing. Panthers were not uncommon and old

and young avoided paths which led through thick underbrush at night. Deer were also plentiful for a time, as were many kinds of small game.

Log cabins soon began to give place to more pretentious houses. In 1840, Jonathan Latimer began the construction of a commodious brick house, which was long considered a fine dwelling. It was built in southern style with a wide hall extending through it from north to south. He had chosen a rarely beautiful building site and had planted two long rows of maple trees which soon formed a handsome avenue leading to the house. The lumber used in the house came from his own timber and the bricks were made from clay dug on his farm and burned in two kilns he had made. The first brick burned he sold to buy window glass and to pay for the sawing of the black walnut lumber and the oak shingles.

Watson Barber, living just north of Louisville, hauled lumber on wagons from Chicago and put up a frame house for himself. This house was torn down only a few years ago.

Mrs. Joseph Latimer and Mrs. Swartz used to go on horseback fifteen miles to Henderson to trade before there was a store in Knoxville. Knoxville being nearer and of growing importance, soon became the trade center for Cedar Township people. Heavy, wide-gauge wagons, drawn by either oxen or horses, were used at first but lighter and less clumsy vehicles must have soon come into use. Horseback riding was universal. The women were expert riders, often carrying farm produce to market in this way and bringing back goods in exchange. At one time, Mrs. Jonathan Latimer marketed so much maple sugar of her own making and Lindsey-woolsey of her own weaving that when the trading was finished she still had fifty dollars to her credit.

Stoves were rare. There was occasionally a square-boxed heating stove to be found but cook stoves did not come into the township until the very last of that first decade. Then one was hauled down from Chicago by Mr. Garrett. J. W. Stephens, at that time a boy in his teens, tells of going to see this stove as a great curiosity.

For laundry purposes in the very earliest days, any good sized stream was sufficient. Mrs. Swartz and Mrs. Jonathan Latimer would carry their washing down to the creek where together they washed the clothes. When these were dry and ready to iron, they would carry the clothes to one or the other cabin and visit while they ironed.

The Markets

The nearest markets where the Cedar Township farmers could dispose of their grain, corn and stock were at Oquawka,

about forty miles distant and especially at Peoria some fifty miles away and Copperas Landing, below Peoria. Mr. Stephens says he has hauled many a load of corn to Peoria, and sold it for fifteen cents a bushel, taking it out in trade. Mr. Stephens spent one winter helping run the saw mill at Old Henderson which sawed the logs for the old First Church at Galesburg. As a young man, he sometimes came to Galesburg for evening entertainments and it was not easy to take the ride home without getting lost, as all was open prairie to his home some six or seven miles south. To use his expression, "there was not a stick from there to Galesburg."

In case of sickness, home remedies were mostly used. Knoxville was the nearest place where medical aid could be secured. In the Fall of 1836 Joseph Latimer's youngest son, David, was seriously ill. He was taken to a doctor in Knoxville who asked that he be left in his care for a few weeks. Seeming improved in health, his brother-in-law, Major Coy, with the best conveyance obtainable at the time, was sent to bring him home. When well on their homeward journey, the young man complained of feeling faint and asked Major Coy to help him to alight. There, sitting by the roadside, death came quickly and with no one to call upon for help, Major Coy lifted his brother's body into the conveyance and went on alone to the sad home coming.

These are some of the experiences of those early days in Cedar Township. While some were hard and some were sad, the pleasant part predominated for the exuberance and strength of youth was in the newly settled country.

Schools

The history of the township's schools and churches began with its settling. From the day when A. D. Swartz and Azel Dorsey joined Hiram Palmer in 1829, religious services have been maintained. The services were held first in Mr. Swartz's house, where also, four years later, a church organization with seven members was effected. From this humble beginning grew the strong Methodist Church of Abingdon which later founded and fostered Hedding College. But before that day, there was a school at Cherry Grove, the outgrowth of another church organization, which was far-reaching in its influence. In Chapman's History of Knox County is this sentence, "The first church and school house erected in the county, was at Cherry Grove in Cedar Township in 1832, and Major Coy said he cut the first log for this church and school house." It was a log building and stood just southwest of where Cherry Grove Cemetery now is. Both religious services and school were held in this building. The school and church were always so closely associated that their story belongs together.

On June 20th, 1835, at the home of Joseph Latimer, a little company met and organized a Cumberland Presbyterian Church with thirteen members. Joseph Latimer and John Howard were elected Elders and George G. Latimer, clerk, an office he held until his death, thirteen years later. The records of this meeting and those that followed are in the possession today of one of Geo. Latimer's descendants. Quaint old records they are and interesting reading. The brethren and sisters are carefully watched over and reproved by the church when their steps go astray. The little church, full of zeal and purpose, in 1836, the year after its organization, erected a frame building which stood about eighty rods northeast of the school house "in a beautiful walnut and sugar maple grove, just at the edge of the prairie." It was here that Cherry Grove Seminary was started, by this young church, in 1837.

Cherry Grove Seminary

Its beginning was small but the hopes of its founders were large. They hoped the school might develop into a college and in 1840, a charter from the state for a first class college was obtained. A graduate of both Cherry Grove Seminary and Knox College, in later years, compared the curriculum of the two young schools and found them almost exactly the same except that more Latin and Greek were taught at Cherry Grove. In 1841, Rev. Cyrus Haynes, a college graduate and an experienced and capable teacher, took charge as principal. Let me quote from Perry's Knox County History: "For eight years, under Mr. Haynes' management, the school prospered. In his time, a considerable addition was built, adjoining the church, to afford more room for the school. In 1849, a large, substantial, two-story frame building was erected, the lower story for a Chapel and church purposes, the upper story arranged for recitations and other school uses.

"Mr. Haynes was followed by a succession of strong, wide-awake teachers among them Rev. J. M. B. Roach, C. H. Baker, Rev. J. C. Wagamon and others, all of whom did good work and under whose management the school continued to prosper. There came to the school a fine class of young people, earnest, enthusiastic and loyal. There was a successful literary society, the Upsilon, and a semi-monthly paper, "The Cherry Leaf," edited by the students. Also, in later years, music was taught. The school was in a sense under the advice and patronage of the Rushville Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. There were students from a large part of Western Illinois and they came also from Iowa, Missouri and Kentucky. A very large percent of those who were students here made a good record in after life, some remarkably so.

"There were grouped about Cherry Grove Seminary grounds and within a half mile, ten or twelve houses where these students were boarded or boarded themselves. Besides these, home from a mile to a mile and a half away, took students to board when it was necessary. In maintaining Cherry Grove Seminary, all the community joined heartily. Many sacrifices were necessary and were made cheerfully. In some respects, the burdens fell heaviest on the women, who, with meagre facilities for doing so and very small pay, had to care for the students and see that they had as comfortable homes as possible while at school. Some of the students were poor and some of the young men were studying for the ministry and were to be encouraged in every possible way.

"Among the many unselfish and devoted women who helped in this, one is worthy of especially mention because of her long service and her helpful influence. When Cherry Grove Seminary was started, George Latimer with his father and brothers, Jonathan and Alexander, were among the active leaders in the move and gave much of their time and liberally of their means in forwarding the enterprise. George Latimer's home was but sixty rods from the Seminary and Church building and every interest that pertained to either, always received a cheerful and hearty support from Mrs. Latimer. She was with the foremost in entertaining comers and goers and always, of course, without a thought of pay. When the school was started and from that time on, her home was always full of students and at almost a nominal price for board. Her sympathy for and helpfulness to young men were a marked feature of her life. Here Dennis Clark, who for eighteen years served so acceptably as judge of the Knox County Court, lived for twelve years. He always held Mrs. Latimer in grateful esteem and affection. In 1848, Mrs. Latimer's first great sorrow came. In the space of two weeks, her husband and three children were taken by death, two of the children being buried in one grave. Left with the entire care of a young family, in addition to her household duties, she now took the management of the farm. Her only son was but ten years old. Besides her watchful care and training of her five children, her management of the farm and stock upon it was equal to that of the best farmers in the neighborhood. Meanwhile, she in no degree relaxed her interest in the school. Her only son, after attending Cherry Grove Seminary, graduated from Knox College and the Law School at Albany, New York. Without coming home from Albany, he went directly into his country's service. In the Fall of 1864, while on shipboard off Fortress Monroe, returning from an expedition into the Carolinas, he died of yellow fever and was buried at sea." What it meant to this widowed mother to have her only son fall in the service of his country, just when he so well prepared for the work of

manhood, many mothers at the present time can understand. With sincerest sympathy, her many student friends shared her sorrow.

Let me pause just here to note again the date of the founding of Cherry Grove Seminary, 1837, the year we Galesburg people know so well as the year of the founding of Knox College. These two institutions then were twins. Though not so perfect in its conception and organization as the college we honor, yet it is with pride and a sense of appreciative gratitude that I write of this school. Honoring as I do and have long done with all my heart, the founders of Galesburg and Knox College, I want here to pay a tribute to these other founders, still earlier pioneers, who, having experienced the sense of insecurity against Indians and wild animals and endured cheerfully the discomforts and inconveniences of the very early days and who, without any strong and well organized colony to stand back of them with sympathy and financial support, yet conceived, prayed over and established a school which did them honor, throughout its almost thirty years of history.

"In the year 1866, there was located at Lincoln, Illinois, a college by the Cumberland Presbyterian churches of the state. This school was intended to take the place of two or three schools similar to the one at Cherry Grove and make of all one strong college. The establishing of this college, together with the fact that there were at the time two colleges in Galesburg, two in Abingdon and one or two in Knoxville, made it apparent that there was no longer a demand for Cherry Grove Seminary and accordingly in 1866, the school was closed.

The town of Abingdon now has one and has had two schools of college grade, Abingdon College in South Abingdon which is in Indian Point Township and Hedding College in North Abingdon.

In 1858, Abingdon College received its charter. It had been opened as an academy in a plain wooden building two years before by P. H. Murphy. The story of this college, for many years a strong and influential school, belongs to Indian Point Township.

Hedding College

Hedding College in North Abingdon is the fulfillment of a prophecy made by the city's founder, Mr. Swartz. Soon after he and his wife came to live in their log cabin near where the Abingdon Cemetery now is, the story goes that he took a walk one day and stopped to rest on a little knoll of rising ground. As they stood looking around them at the wide stretching prairie, Mr. Swartz said to his wife: "We shall live to see a village here and where we stand a college will be built." On

the ground where he stood when he uttered those words, Hedding College now stands. At another time, he said to a companion: "Here is my college site. I do not expect to live to see it, but I have an impression that some day there will be a college built here." Mr. Swartz died in 1852. In the division of property, the present site of the college fell to his daughter Sarah, who afterward married Thomas R. Wilson. They gave five acres of ground and \$500 to help carry out the plan of establishing an institution of learning. Oregon P. and Benjamin, sons of A. D. Swartz, were also among the most liberal donors. The school was first opened November 19, 1855, and held its sessions for two years in the old Methodist Episcopal church, with Rev. N. C. Lewis as principal. It was called Hedding Collegiate Seminary in honor of Bishop Hedding. The name was suggested by J. B. F. Chesney.

The first building was erected by voluntary subscriptions in 1856 and '57. September 16, 1857, the school opened in its new building. On February 9, 1857, a charter had been granted and the name changed to Hedding Seminary and Central Illinois Memale College. Ten years later, the first class graduated in the regular Seminary course. In 1873 and '74, the large main building, seventy-one by seventy feet and three stories high, was put up at a cost of \$45,000. In 1875, the name was again changed to Hedding College and a new college charter was granted.

The college is under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Like all colleges, Hedding has had its times of special prosperity and adversity. Let me quote from its last college catalogue: "The decade of the 90's saw the beginning of an endowment fund. In 1903, the gymnasium was erected and the era of expansion ushered in. The endowment campaign of 1908 and '09 added materially to the resources of the college, while that of 1911 and 1912 not only increased the fund, but awakened a fine spirit of enthusiasm for its usefulness. The campaign begun in the spring of 1912, was carried forward for the next four years, coming to a victorious conclusion on December 6, 1916. At midnight of this date, a total of \$350,000 was announced. The Board of Trustees set aside \$250,000 of this amount for endowment and \$100,000 for indebtedness, buildings and equipment. \$10,000 have been invested in the purchase of books for the Library, equipment for the laboratories and in the remodeling of the basement of the main college building, and \$40,000 have been spent in remodeling Old Main. The plant is now modern in every detail." At present, the college has the following buildings: Old Main, enlarged and remodeled; the Gymnasium; the Nessie Blodgett Hall for young women and Novella McHard Home for boys; besides owning a handsome residence for the home of the president.

Nearly four hundred names are on its alumni roll, including many who have achieved commercial or professional success above the average. Doctor Walter D. Agnew is its present efficient and beloved president.

Hedding college and Cherry Grove Seminary are the only schools of higher education which Cedar Township has had, but district schools, almost all of them begun in log houses, were erected wherever settlements were made. There are to-day and have been for many years, schools taught in the Louisville, Brush Creek, Hunter, Heller, Warren, Earle, Cherry Grove and Cross Lanes districts. Professor W. F. Boyes, County Superintendent of Schools, has written for Mr. Perry's County History a fine and authoritative article upon "The History and Development of the County Common Schools." In this article he makes mention of the valuable work of Leanna Hague, who was closely identified with educational interests in Cedar Township for many years. Her father, with his wife and two little children, spent the winter of '51 and '52 in the Cherry Grove neighborhood, where he had come in October from Pennsylvania. The next year, he moved over into Galesburg township where he lived for the remainder of a long life. His oldest daughter, Leanna, after graduating from Waynesburg College in Pennsylvania, came back into Cedar Township and for fifteen years taught school in the newly erected country school house at Cherry Grove. She proved herself a rare educator. Thorough and enthusiastic in her work, she had the gift, to a marked degree, of inspiring her pupils with great loyalty and ambition. Working in close association with Mary Allen West, County Superintendent of Schools from 1873 to 1882, she did valuable service to the township and county in classifying and providing graded courses of study for district schools. Her own school was repeatedly the banner school in number of premiums taken for fine work shown at the County Fair. For several successive years, this district school excelled all others in the state, in number and value of premiums taken for superior work shown at the State Fair. Leanna Hague's work with Cherry Grove School, ceased when she married George Dunlap in 1883. She is living today, frail in body, but strong in mind and spirit, in the city of Galesburg.

Churches

In the history of the township, its churches have had an important part. The organization of the two oldest has already been mentioned. I will add a few facts about these before telling of others.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Abingdon was organized in the home of A. D. Swartz in 1833, three years before

the town of Abingdon was laid out, with the following members: Mr. and Mrs. Swartz, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Latimer, Mr. and Mrs. Finch and Mrs. Nancy Latimer. Two years later, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Latimer withdrew to help organize another church of their own denomination. The little new Methodist church worshipped for sometime in private houses. In 1846, their first church was erected in Abingdon on the corner of Washington and Jefferson streets. This building was used both for religious worship and for two years by Hedding College for school purposes. When the first college building was put up in 1857, the congregation worshipped in its chapel until a new church building was erected in 1867. This building, a fine one for its day, stood for thirty years on the corner of Washington and Latimer streets. It was torn down to give place to the present well-appointed, modern church building, which was completed in 1898. This strong church has always been closely identified with the life of the city of Abingdon.

The Congregational Church of today in Abingdon had its origin in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Cherry Grove about which I have already told in connection with Cherry Grove Seminary. For its history and in explanation of its change in denominations, I quote from an article prepared at the time of the dedication of the present Congregational Church building: "At the present time when the new Congregational Church building in Abingdon is being dedicated, it seems most appropriate that there should be given and recorded a brief history of the congregation that worshipped in the old church home and is now entering the new one, showing a continuous and connected history of the organization that took its start more than 80 years ago, and thus preserve in permanent form some, at least, of the more important facts connected with a congregation that has taken an important part in shaping the religious and educational life of this community from the time of its very first settlement. Briefly, therefore, we find that between 1830 and 1835, there came hither from that part of Tennessee and Kentucky, known as the Cumberland country, several families and located in the vicinity of Abingdon, mostly to the north of what is known as Cherry Grove neighborhood. These people were of staunch Presbyterian, Puritan stock. They brought with them letters from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. On June 20, 1835, these families by appointment met at the home of Joseph Latimer and organized the Cherry Grove congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Rev. James H. Stockton, a minister of that denomination, was present and after preaching a sermon, acted as moderator, and conducted the service of organization. The following names were enrolled as members: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Latimer, Mr. and Mrs. John Howard, Miss Ellen Howard, Mrs. Susan P. Coy, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. G. Lati-

mer, Mr. and Mrs. John Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Latimer and Mrs. Nancy Lomax.

This was the first church that built, as has been related, the first meeting house in the edge of the timber and later worshipped in the Cherry Grove Seminary building. I resume the quotation:

"In 1866, there was located at Lincoln, Illinois, a Cumberland Presbyterian College for the state. Cherry Grove was a competitor for this college but failing to secure it, the church decided to abandon the school and build a church house in Abingdon. Thus, after a career of marked usefulness for nearly thirty years, was the dual work of this congregation abandoned.

"In the fall and winter of 1866, the church building in Abingdon on the corner of Washington and Pearl streets was erected and in February of 1867, it was dedicated and occupied. At that time it was the most commodious church building in Abingdon. Rev. J. R. Brown, D. D., was then the popular and well beloved pastor. After a period of fourteen years, during which time every department of the church work was maintained without an interruption, the congregation decided to change to the fellowship of the Congregational Church. In 1881, by a vote of the congregation, they changed their fellowship in a body from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to that of the Congregational Church. This action was taken without any change in belief, they then and now retaining the same articles of faith as formerly. It was done for the sake of closer fellowship with the churches in the nearer vicinity and because of the then existing prejudice between the North and South growing out of the recent rebellion. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized in the South and had its membership largely there. Its name, too, tended to localize it there. Because of this prejudice, the church felt that its usefulness was being hindered. Rev. James M. Campbell, D. D., was the last pastor before this change was made and Rev. William Clerk, was the first after the change." The present commodious and modern Congregational church building was completed and occupied in 1917.

A Protestant Methodist Church was started in Abingdon about 1838. They at first worshipped in a small frame building on the corner of Main and Latimer streets. In '46, or near that time, they put up a church building on Jackson street a little west of where the C. B. and Q. railroad tracks now are. Later, about 1868, they built a commodious and substantial church home that stood on the corner of Jefferson and Jackson streets. For a while they were a flourishing church. After some years the church organization was abandoned.

In this Protestant Methodist church building in 1879 a congregation was organized known as the Jefferson Street Christian Church. After worshipping here for a time, they purchased the old Methodist Episcopal Church building on the corner of Washington and Jefferson streets. They refurnished it and worshipped there until 1884, when this church reunited with the Christian Church then worshipping in the chapel of the old Abingdon College building.

The present Christian Church of Abingdon, so long connected with Abingdon College, was founded in 1840 by Hiram Smith and Richard Johnston. It is another strong church closely connected with the life of the city, but its history belongs to Indian Point Township in which township it is located.

About 1858, a Congregational Church was organized in Abingdon. Among those who started this church were Isaac Hunter, Thomas Marsh, Thomas Andrews, Thaddeus Merrill, Wm. Hughey and their families. They bought a lot and put up a building on the west side of Main street opposite the present city park. Here they worshipped for ten years, or until 1868, when the church was disbanded. Each member of the church was given a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any church he or she might wish to unite with.

In 1910, a Universalist Church was organized in Abingdon which is doing service at the present time.

There have been several influential country churches in the township. About 1838, both the Methodist Episcopal and the Methodist Protestant people organized each a church. The Methodist Episcopal organization occurred in the village of Louisville; the Methodist Protestant a mile north of it. Both congregations worshipped for a time in private houses. In 1841, a Methodist Episcopal Church building was erected on the public square of Louisville. Mr. Stephens thus describes it: "It was built by Reuben Castle in 1842 and he received for the labor and the material which he put into it, \$150.00. Every piece of dimension stuff that was in the building was hewn out of oak. The structure was exceedingly well built and thoroughly pinned together with wooden pins. It stood on blocks that raised the building quite high from the ground so that the sheep that were running at large, used to go under the building and stay there during their resting time and in the hottest part of the day." In 1878, under the leadership of Rev. Kinney, the little church known as Warren Chapel was built, at which time the Louisville church was abandoned as a house of worship. It was given to Rev. R. Kinney and he occupied it about five years as a residence. Then J. W. Stephens purchased the ground and the church which stood upon it." The Warren Chapel Methodist Episcopal church did good service for a long

time. The building now stands unused, the organization having been given up.

The Methodist Protestant church was built soon after the Methodist Episcopal, near where Pleas Marks now lives. Their first building was, in process of time, replaced by a larger and more imposing structure. This, however, because of so many deaths and removals was abandoned long ago, and in 1894, the building was sold and torn down.

Sunday Schools were kept up more or less regularly for some years at Warren Chapel, Louisville, and in the Brush Creek, Hunter and Earle School Houses. No school house Sunday Schools are held regularly so far as is known at the present time and out of all these churches, there are only three in the township today, the Abingdon Methodist Episcopal, Congregational and Universalist.

Towns and Industries

It is interesting to note that Galesburg, Abingdon and Louisville were laid out as towns in the same year—1836. Abingdon was laid out by A. D. Swartz, Louisville by John S. Garrett.

On the map of Cedar Township in the 1870 "Atlas Map of Knox County," the plat of the town of Louisville, on Section 16, is shown. Louisville never grew to be more than a village but had several good-sized hewed log houses, a post office, a Methodist Episcopal church and a store started by Alexander Ewing of Knoxville. The post office was at first called "Farmers' Hall." The mail was carried by a hired conveyance from Macomb to Galesburg. Thus, both Abingdon and Louisville were on this mail route. The mail was all carried in one bag, the postman stopping at each town on the way and sorting out the mail for that town.

When, in 1853, a township organization was perfected, the first township election was held in Louisville with Hugh A. Kelly as moderator and Lorentus W. Conger clerk. The result of this first township election was as follows: E. P. Dunlap, Supervisor; William Marks, Clerk; William Lang, Assessor; James W. Smoot, Collector; J. W. Stephens and W. H. Heller, Commissioners of Highways; P. M. Shoop and Joseph Harvey Justices of Peace; Thomas S. Bassett, Overseer of the Poor; Solomon Stegall and Eli Butler, Constables. The election of the following year was also held at Louisville but ever since, it has been held at Abingdon. No trace of the village of Louisville is left today, but the Louisville District School House stands near the original site.

Abingdon, beautifully located on high rolling ground in

the southwest quarter of Section 33, as originally laid out by Mr. Swartz, comprised sixteen blocks. In 1849, the Frederick Snyder addition, just over the line in Indian Point Township, was added. It was long known as South Abingdon. There have been a number of later additions. The town was named after the city of Abingdon, Maryland, the birthplace of Mr. Swartz. From the fuller accounts of Abingdon as written up in the various Knox County histories and from old residents, I have culled a few facts. The first residence, a one-room, log house, was erected on Main street by A. M. Curry. He and John Green built a log store near the dwelling and received a license to sell goods in 1837. Alonzo Reece, a brother of Dr. Reece, who was so long and closely identified with Abingdon life, was the first child born in the town. Where the Globe Factory now stands, the first hotel was erected. It was run by Captain Thomas Ellison. Before this, in 1836, the very year the town was started, we are told there was a tavern kept in a double log house by a certain John Evans. Here both man and beast could find accommodations. The first school, taught by a Mr. McIntosh in 1838, was held in a small frame building which stood just north of where the Globe Factory now stands. In 1855, the population of Abingdon was only about five hundred. The founding of its colleges about that time, an account of which has already been given, gave great impetus to the growth of the town. In 1867, a large brick graded school building was built. At present, Abingdon has two graded schools and has a fine new high school building in process of erection.

Abingdon was incorporated as a village in 1845. In 1857, north and south Abingdon united and were incorporated as a city by a special act of legislature. The first officers were: W. H. Gillaspie, Mayor; C. C. Lewis, Sidney Owens, Jesse Perdue and George Inness, Aldermen; C. L. Summers, Clerk; Jesse Burr, Assessor; Andrew Bradbury, Collector; W. H. Gillaspie, Treasurer and W. Merrick, Marshal. In accordance with the terms stipulated in its original charter, no intoxicating liquor has ever been legally sold within the boundaries. The store kept by Jonathan Latimer, later known as Latimer and Meeks, is noteworthy because it demonstrates the fact that a department store flourished in the forties and fifties even if not so well organized or extensively housed as those of the present time. Perry's History of Knox County says of this store: "Under one roof were employed a shoe-maker, a tailor and a milliner. This store kept dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, hardware, meats cured by themselves and a small variety of drugs. They also bought and sold cattle, hogs, sheep and all the products of the farm. There were two ways in which they disposed of hogs of which they often owned several thousand taken in exchange for goods sold during the

year. They would either slaughter them on the farm and haul their carcasses to Copperas Landing on the Illinois River, or they would drive them on foot to the same shipping point. Sometimes, the meat that was slaughtered would be packed in barrels, salted and shipped in this way. Generally, the return wagons would be loaded with goods to be again traded to the farmers for their farm products." Copperas Landing was the center of this shipping trade as it furnished water facilities to St. Louis and other cities.

There are two prosperous banks in Abingdon at the present time, the First National, known as the People's Bank, organized in 1879 by M. C. Bates, J. B. McKay and M. C. Kimball, and the State Bank, organized in 1902 by John Mosser and sons, James Cox, J. W. Hunter, Henry Simmons, and Joseph Main.

Abingdon is justly proud of its manufacturing interests. They began back in the forties and fifties with certain hand-manufactured articles. J. B. F. Chesney manufactured plows which were celebrated throughout this section of the country. Also, Jonathan Latimer built carriages and buggies in the early days. Boots and shoes were made by Henry Frey.

The following statistics for 1918, have been given me by the city officials. At present, Abingdon has sixteen factories with an annual pay roll of approximately \$500,000 and numbering some eight hundred or more employees. The annual production is approximately \$2,000,000. The largest of the manufacturing concerns are the Globe Shirt and Overall Company, Abingdon Wagon Company, Abingdon Sanitary Manufacturing Company and the American Sanitary Manufacturing Company. In a factory way Abingdon has the largest production per capita in normal times, of any city, town or village in the State of Illinois. Today, 1918, her large factories are all employed in producing war materials. Abingdon is a city of homes, factories and schools. Her present population is three thousand.

Outside of Abingdon, farming and cattle raising have always been the main pursuits of Cedar Township people. There is a very small proportion of poor land in the township and its farms have reached a high degree of cultivation. Anyone riding over the township as I have done in search of material for this paper, cannot fail to be impressed with the rich productive beauty of its farm land. In the business of stock raising, Cedar Township has ranked with the very best, and still ranks high. Perry's County History says of this industry in the Township: "Some as fine stock has been raised there as could be found upon the market. Large herds of Shorthorn, Hereford, Galloway, Angus, Holstein and Jersey cattle have been bred in the township."

The Quincy Branch of the C. B. & Q. Railroad passes throughout the length of Cedar Township. At the time of its building, the two ends building toward each other, the one from Quincy, the other from Chicago, met just south of Abingdon and formed a completed line. A Cedar Township man, Jonathan Latimer, took the contract for furnishing the ties for what is now the Quincy Branch of this railroad and for furnishing a large amount of corded wood to be used as engine fuel. Wood was the only fuel used at first in railroad engines.

Some Noteworthy Emigrations

Cedar Township has sent many of its sons and daughters to be pioneers in other states. I will mention three instances involving more than usual experiences.

When the memorable little company of "Forty-Niners," known as the Jayhawkers started from Knox County April 1, 1849, in quest of California gold, Cedar Township furnished one of the men, Lorenzo Dow Stephens, a brother of J. W. Stephens. The Jayhawkers, thirty-nine in number in seeking a short cut to California, left the Los Angeles Trail and entering through a ravine "struck out bodily, at first, into the great American desert." They wandered for weeks in the desert, including that awful desolation of Death's Valley, which they discovered and which was never crossed before by a white man. Three perished there and the rest, having been fifty-two days with almost no food and suffering terribly for lack of water in the sandy valleys of salt and alkali, came out at last, little more than living skeletons at a hospitable cattle ranch near the head waters of the Santa Clara River in Ventura County, Southern California. Of this company, only two are living today, Lorenza Dow Stephens of San Jose, California, and John B. Colton of Galesburg, Illinois.

In the very early days of Minnesota, a young couple went from Cedar Township to be missionaries among the Indians. These were Mr. and Mrs. Amos Huggins. Mr. Huggins was for a while a student in Knox College and his wife was Sophia Marsh, oldest sister of Leroy Marsh. It was a time of much hostility among the Indians. After a few years residence there, Mr. Huggins stepped out of his house one evening into the yard on some errand. The light, streaming out of the open doorway, made him a fine target, a shot rang out and he fell, the victim of a hostile Indian's bullet. His wife and baby were held as captives by the Indians for six weeks and carried 100 miles farther north before they were rescued by some government troops. Mrs. Huggins is still living in the State of Missouri.

A little company from Cedar Township became pioneers in the far west and the founders of a great city. Mentioned

among the first to settle in the township, in 1831, was Mrs. Sarah Boren, the widowed daughter of Joseph Latimer. Mrs. Boren lived on the land adjoining her father's until her one son had grown to manhood and her two daughters were young women. The older of the daughters, Mary, married Arthur A. Denny, who was County Surveyor in Knox County, from 1848 to 1851. Soon after this marriage, the parents of the bride and groom, Mrs. Sarah Latimer Boren, the mother of Mary Boren Denney, and John Denny, the father of Arthur A. Denny, were married. John Denny, who had been a volunteer in the war of 1812 and had served in the legislature where he was associated with Lincoln, Baker, Yates and Trumbull, with his five sons and Mrs. Sarah Latimer Boren Denny with her sons and two daughters, became enthused with the idea of settling on the far Pacific coast. They had known pioneer days in Illinois and had the true pioneer spirit. On April 10, 1851, just two years after the Jayhawkers left Knox County, Mr. and Mrs. John Denny with their grown-up sons and daughters, children and grandchildren, began the great journey across the plains. They started that April morning, from the family home at Cherry Grove in four "prairie schooners" as the canvas covered wagons were called, three of them drawn by four-horse teams, one by a single span; they took also a few saddle horses and two faithful watch dogs, that proved of great value in traveling in the wilds. Their long toilsome journey, full of incidents and adventures, was ended when, in the fall, they reached Puget Sound and Elliott Bay. They camped temporarily for the winter and in February of '52, less than a year after leaving Cedar Township, Arthur Denny, having made soundings of the bay and determined where the city of his dreams should be located, used the experience gained as surveyor in Knox County, in surveying and laying out claims where was to be the city of Seattle. He, with his brother, David, and two or three other men, were the first to occupy claims and start business interests in that city. They lived to achieve great wealth and many of their descendants reside in Seattle today.

War Record

Cedar Township is justly proud of its war record. All through the Forties and Fifties, its inhabitants were wide-awake to war issues. These issues were ardently discussed in the Upsilon Society of Cherry Grove Seminary and in the college debating societies in Abingdon and were often hotly disputed in gatherings of the men. When Lincoln and Douglas spoke in Galesburg, wagon loads went from Cedar Township to hear them. Among the Township's strong Abolitionists was Abel Thomas, already mentioned in this history as one of the early settlers. He lived in the country east and north of

Louisville and was a zealous pilot in the Underground Railway traffic. Mounted on a fence post, where the lane leading to his house turned off from the main road, he always kept the skull of a cow or of some other animal. This was a sign which meant to those helping runaway slaves, that here they would find a friend.

When the call to arms came, the Township responded quickly and loyally, with its full quota, probably more, of men. The strong loyalty everywhere manifested before and during the Civil War is noteworthy because such a large proportion of those who had been shaping the opinions of the different communities for the thirty years preceding the war, grew up in homes where the passing generation had come from semi-southern states and some of whom had slave-owning relatives. Exact statistics are almost impossible to obtain. In the Knox County list of Civil War volunteers, three hundred and seventy-two names from Abingdon and Cedar Township appear. Some of these men merely enlisted from Abingdon and were not Cedar Township people. The Township can undoubtedly claim three hundred volunteers and probably sent more. All who went from the Township were volunteers. There were no drafted men from Cedar.

While the men were serving on the battle field, the women were doing all they could to furnish needed lint, bandages and supplies. Nowhere was there sincerer mourning when the bells announced the death of Abraham Lincoln.

In 1897, Company D of the Illinois National Guards was organized in Abingdon. At the outbreak of the Spanish War in the spring of '98, members of Company D volunteered and were mustered in with the rest of the regiment forming the Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which served through the war and was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois, November 25, 1898.

A very large number of Cedar Township men are serving at the present time in the various departments of service in the great allied war against Germany. Perry's History says of the Township: "Cedar has always maintained a high degree of patriotism. Of the old settlers, there are seventeen soldiers of the war of 1812, four of the early Indian wars and two of the Mexican war, found in its cemeteries. Forty-nine soldiers of the Civil War are also buried within the Township limits." Since these statistics were given, in 1912, a very large number of Civil War soldiers have been added to those already buried in the Township.

The men and women who had to do with the settlement of Cedar Township and with the shaping of its early life are almost all resting now and their voices are silent. It is fitting

that we who come after, not so far removed in time but that we have often heard rehearsed the stories of pioneer days, should pass on to coming generations the annals of those times.

Admiring, honoring, loving those who have wrought for us, to us in these days, comes the message Emerson voices: "I have no expectation any man will read history aright, who thinks that what was done in a remote age, by men whose names have resounded far, has any deeper sense than what he is doing today."

LIBERTY LOAN RECORD

Owing to the omission of a line which makes the meaning obscure, the following showing the Liberty Loan Record of the county in the late war is republished:

The county by its response to the call of the government for funds also gave its soldiers the most substantial backing. This is indicated by the following tables showing the total contributions to each of the four Liberty Loans and the Victory Loan:

	Quota	Amt. Raised	Contributors
First -----	\$ 923,180	\$ 659,600	Not Known
Second -----	1,288,030	1,698,250	7,000
Third -----	1,256,640	2,229,600	10,557
Fourth -----	2,506,900	2,659,900	14,326
Victory -----	1,958,450	2,367,050	6,980
Totals---	\$7,933,200	\$9,614,400	

The county far exceeded the total quota.

CHESTNUT TOWNSHIP

From Sketch by H. M. Reece

The following interesting notes on Chestnut Township are from a sketch by H. M. Reece in 1899:

The earliest settler of Chestnut Township was Anson Dolph, who came from Kentucky in 1833. He raised a crop of wheat that year on Section 17, and in 1834, came as a permanent settler. In the year last named came also John Terry, from Virginia, who settled on Section 16, and became the first Justice of the Peace. He enjoyed the distinction of having performed the first marriage ceremony in the township, the contracting parties being a Mr. Gay and a Miss Cope, whose wish for a legal union was sufficiently strong to induce them to ride a long distance on a single horse. Those early marriages often presented romantic features wholly lacking in the fashionable weddings of these days of purer refinement and higher civilization. To illustrate: One of the marriages solemnized by 'Squire Terry was that of a couple who stood on one bank of the Spoon River, while he pronounced the fateful words on the other, the stream being too swollen to permit either party to cross to the opposite bank. Mr. Terry afterward engaged in trade, and amassed what in those days was regarded as an independent fortune.

In 1836, Robert Leigh and Archibald Long came from Ohio and settled on Section 33, where Mr. Leigh remained until his death. Soon after his arrival he commenced raising hemp, and, there being no market for the raw product, he constructed a factory of a rude description, where he manufactured his own and his neighbors' hemp crops into rope. For a time the industry proved very profitable, and he, too, amassed a comfortable fortune. Mr. Long, soon after settling on Section 33, removed to Section 19, where, in 1842, he platted the village of Hermon.

He was a local Methodist preacher, and soon after his arrival at his new home he organized a Methodist class, which met regularly at his house for many years. The last of this devoted band was Mrs. Sally Shafer.

Among the early settlers should be also mentioned O. P. Barton. He was famous in those times as a pedestrian, and gave repeated evidence of his prowess and power of endurance in this description of exercise. Once, starting on foot at the same time with several horsemen for the land office at Quincy, one hundred miles distant, he out-stripped them all, securing the prize offered to the winner of the race which consisted of

forty acres of government land in Section 17. Another pioneer was Harmon Way, who was famous as a marksman and hunter.

The first house was built of logs by Mr. Dolph on Section 17, in 1833. The first brick house was that of Robert Leigh, erected about 1845. The first road was the old State road, from Peoria to Oquawka, which ran diagonally through the township from southeast to northwest. Its course, however, has been since changed, so that it now follows section lines. The first bridge was built about 1846, at the point where the old road crosses Spoon River. It was a very cumbersome, wooden affair, which was carried away and demolished by a flood in 1855.

The first birth was a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Shaver, in 1835. The first death was that of Jacob Hartford, in 1836.

The first graveyard was on Section 33, and was established by Robert Leigh, soon after he settled on the section. It is not now used as a burial spot, though the few graves there are well cared for by his son Benjamin, who is a prominent citizen of the township. Two other cemeteries have been laid out, as follows: One on Section 19, near the Methodist Church, by Archibald Long, which has been several times enlarged, the other in 1863, by the trustees of the Christian church, near their house of worship on Section 18.

The first school house, after the fashion of those early days, was built of logs, and was exceedingly rude as regarded both its exterior and interior. It was put up in 1836, and some years afterward was replaced by a frame building which, after undergoing many alterations, is still used as the school house of District No. 3. Two years later (1838) the second school house, likewise of logs, was built on Section 28. It disappeared long ago, and the site is now occupied by the Church of the United Brethren. The first school teacher to exercise his vocation was Mr. Haskins, who taught in what is now District No. 3. At present, 1899, the township has eight schools, none of them graded, occupying buildings valued at six thousand, five hundred dollars. The aggregate attendance is two hundred and forty-three, out of a total population of three hundred and eighty-six minors.

The first mill was built by Mr. Howard on Haw Creek about 1845. It was designed both for sawing lumber and grinding corn, but was used only a few years and has long since been only a memory. There was also a saw mill on Litter's Creek, on Section 25, about the same time, which has shared the same fate. Early in the forties, Mr. Parker manufactured brick on Section 23, for several years.

The first store was kept by John Terry on Section 16, and

its stock was very limited. A Mr. Moor early established another on Section 15, but it proved unsuccessful and he soon abandoned the enterprise.

One of the earliest taverns was kept by Jonathan Potts, on Section 22, on the old State road. The first physician was Dr. Porter, who came in 1838 and remained but a short time. He was succeeded Dr. Morris, and he, in turn, by Dr. Wilson.

The first settlers of the township were compelled to depend on Troy, in Fulton County, and on Knoxville, then the county seat, for postal facilities, but in 1848 a post office was established at Hermon, the mail being brought from Knoxville once a week. The first postmaster was a Mr. Massie.

The township was organized at a meeting held in 1857, by the choice of the following officials: Samuel Collins, Supervisor; John Terry and David Massie, Justices of the Peace; Mr. McCoy, Clerk; William Graves and Freeman West, Constables; Robert Benson, Collector; and Owen Betterton, Assessor.

Justices of the Peace since the first elected have been Owen Betterton, Hiram Culver, Walter Bond, Samuel Jamison, Henry Bond, George Haver, Marion Dyer, T. J. Routh, Clayton Trumbeel, J. W. Ogden and John E. Davis and Lee Lucas, the present dispensers of justice, (1899), for the township.

There is but one village in Chestnut, originally called Harrisonville, but now known as Hermon. A village was laid out in Section 23, in 1852, by Andrew J. Parker. It was situated on the right bank of the Spoon, near where the present bridge crosses that stream. It never grew, and the plat was vacated by the legislature in 1869.

The Christian Church in the township was organized in 1854, by Revs. John Miller and Gaston. The Church of the United Brethren was organized in 1859, and the denomination has a well-built edifice, on Section 28.

The Methodist church was first organized by Archibald Long, an early settler and local preacher. Through his efforts a modist church building was erected in 1842. The Baptist Society was organized early in the forties by Elders A. Gogorth and C. Humphrey.

The township furnished its quotas to the Civil War and to the wars since then. It's citizens have had a conspicuous part in the affairs of the county.

COPLEY TOWNSHIP

From Sketches by J. W. Temple

The surface of Copley Township, so named from a prominent family of that name at one time residing in it, consists chiefly of fertile prairie land, just sufficiently rolling to ensure good drainage, though in its southern part there is some broken ground, probably one-fourth of its area having been originally timber land.

The first settler in the township was a Mr. Berry, who, in 1836, located near the present village of Victoria, which lies partly in this and partly in Victoria Township. Mathew Herbert and Larkin Robinson followed, the next year. In 1839, the first members of what soon became a thrifty Scotch colony began to settle on some of the best lands; and the descendants of these sons of "Auld Scotia" are now men of wealth and high moral standing in the community. The Gordons, Cooks, McCornacks, Taites, McKies, Leightons, McClymonts, McMasters, McDowells, Stevensons, Milroys, McQuarries and others, with their numerous and thrifty progeny, were among the most prominent citizens of the township. Later, its rich lands have attracted a large number of Swedes, whose thrift, industry and probity have made of these first immigrants wealthy farmers and landholders. Their descendants, by intermarrying with the native population, are fast becoming homogeneous, as they are a patriotic body of American citizens, while their success is due to brain no less than to brawn.

When the first settlers arrived, a small tribe of Indians still inhabited a grove, now known as Foreman Grove, near the northern limits of the present township.

The first child born in Copley was a son of Mathew Herbert, in 1836. The first death was that of Harriet Foster, in 1842. Rev. Charles Bostwick and Mrs. Hurr were the first couple to be married, and Rev. Mr. Bostwick preached the first sermon in 1840, in a log school house.

The first school was taught by Miss Mary J. Smith, afterwards Mrs. John Becker, in a log cabin, one and one-half miles northwest of Victoria.

There are few townships where the value of an education is more genuinely appreciated than here, the result being shown in the exceptional intelligence and culture of its citizens.

The first saw mill, that of Jeremiah Collinson, operated by horse power, was put up in 1850. Mr. Berry was the builder of the first frame structure, on Section 9, in 1840. Now some

of the finest residences in the county are to be found on its prairie farms.

Copley Township has lacked railroads, and by reason of that want has no large towns. In 1894, however, to reach the extensive coal fields of this and Victoria townships, a railroad was built from Wataga, on the line of the Burlington and Quincy Railroad, running through nearly the center of the township, to a mining village called Etherly, located on the eastern boundary of Copley. This village was laid out on the southeastern quarter of Section 35, on August 10, 1894, by Samuel Charles. Owing to legal complications, which prevented for a time the operating of the road, the village is yet, (1899), without many inhabitants. It is believed, however, that, under altered conditions, a thriving mining town will soon be built up to develop the rick, unworked coal deposits which underlie nearly all the southern part of Copley. This railroad has been since extended into the village of Victoria, which, with its natural advantages of situation, has heretofore only lacked railroad facilities to become one of the most prosperous villages in the county.

The first town officers elected in 1853, were: J. O. Stanley, Supervisor; N. Kelsey, Clerk; J. M. Perkins, Assessor; Austin Gaines, Collector; Isaac Copley and A. W. Buckley, Justices; A. A. Smith, S. McCornack and J. Sirie, Commissioners of Highways, and J. Collinson, Overseer of the Poor.

Its population in 1860 was one thousand and ten; in 1870 it was twelve hundred and nineteen; in 1880 it had fallen to one thousand and seventy-six and in 1890 was nine hundred and ten.

HISTORY OF ELBA TOWNSHIP

By Miss Elsie D. North

The Illinois Indians were no doubt the first inhabitants of Elba Township, but were gradually driven further South by the Kickapoos. These were industrious, intelligent and cleanly in comparison with most of their kind, and made this township only their temporary home, on the way to and from other hunting grounds. So the white men never had to dispute possession of this land with the Indians, nor were they ever molested by the Red Men, so far as history shows.

The first white man to locate in the township was John King, of Ohio, who, in 1835, came and took up 80 acres on Section 2, then returned to Ohio to bring out his family. The next Spring he again started West, leaving his family to follow later, but arriving at Peoria, he was taken sick and died before reaching Knox County. As soon as they could leave their old home, but which was not until 1837, his widow and nine children, the youngest less than 2 years old, made the long westward journey in wagons drawn by oxen, stopping with her brother in Peoria County until their new home could be built.

Very soon thereafter came Darius Miller and his brother; then Felix Thurman settled on Section 34, L. A. Jones on Section 15, Jacob Kightlinger on Section 27 and James H. Nicholson on Section 25. Josiah Nelson, John Thurman, John and William West, Vachel Metcalf, J. H. and W. H. Baird and Samuel Tucker were also early settlers.

The first marriage was Moses Smith to Tabitha George in 1840, by Jacob Kightlinger, the first Justice of the Peace, whose Commission was dated August, 1839. The first birth was Tabitha Smith, on Section 35.

The first house in the township was the one built by Thomas King for his widowed mother and sisters and brothers. It was on the north side of Section 2, on the Knoxville and Peoria stage road, and was a one room log building, with a loft above.

The population increased steadily as the township was built up, many of the early settlers having large families—the majority of these were from Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, while several came from England.

The first school house in the township was built by Jacob Kightlinger in 1842, on Section 27, but before this Mr. Kightlinger had employed a private governess, named Antoinette Walker, to teach his children, eleven in number. Vachel Metcalf had also taught school in a private house, in 1840. As the

township became more settled, other school houses were built until now there are eight in the township, all being substantial frame buildings of one room each.

The early settlers did not meet with such hardships as were endured by many pioneers. Their homes were usually in or near the timber, which furnished material for their buildings as well as fuel and shelter for their live stock until they could build barns and sheds. There was plenty of game and fish for food and good grazing for stock out on the prairie. Only the cultivated land was fenced and cattle, horses and hogs roamed at will over the prairies, and as they often failed to come home at night, much time was spent hunting for them. Money was not plentiful and prices were very low, corn selling for 20 cents per bushel; potatoes, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per bushel; pork, 2 cents per lb.; lard, 4 cents per lb.; butter, 6 cents per lb.; flour, \$4.50 per barrel; wheat, 60 cents per bushel; oats, 30 cents per bushel, etc., but the wants of these people were not many and were easily satisfied.

Travel at first was mostly on foot, on horseback or in wagons drawn by oxen or horses, while the fortunate owners of the first buggies and carriages were frequently called on to loan them to their poorer or less provident neighbors. During busy seasons, while horses were working in the fields, some thrifty housewives would occasionally take a basket of eggs and butter on either arm and walk three or four miles to market, bringing home groceries in exchange for their produce. At the present time travel is mostly by buggy and automobile, very few farmers feeling themselves too poor to afford the latter.

In the early days Farmington in Fulton County, Charleston (now Brimfield) in Peoria County, and Knoxville were the nearest trading points. Later there were stores at Newburg in Peoria County and Glenwood in Salem township. There was a store at Eugene in Elba township. When Elmwood and Yates City were started they secured most of the trade of this township, which they now share with Williamsfield and Douglas. Also the early settlers hauled much of their wheat to Peoria, and it was not uncommon to haul a load to Chicago, bringing back lumber or something not obtainable at nearby towns.

The first store in the township was at Eugene, on Section 2. It was a general store kept by E. A. Ellsworth, in a small building near his residence, and was started prior to 1850. There was also a Post Office here, the mail being brought by stage from Knoxville and Peoria. Later, (in 1860), Miss Mary King moved both store and Post Office to her home, just east of her brother, James King's house; sometime after

her marriage to John Wilson in 1862, they were moved across the road in Truro township.

The first Post Office in Elba, however, was at the home of Jacob Kightlinger, and in 1870 one was established on Section 15, called Spoon River, but the following year the name was changed to Elba Centre. There was also a store here, Miss Rebecca Boyes, an aunt of County Superintendent of Schools, W. F. Boyes, being Postmistress and store-keeper.

Felix Thurman put up the first saw-mill in the township, on French Creek. It was a small mill, run by water power. There was at one time a tile factory on the farm of George W. Smith, on Section 24; E. A. Ellsworth also owned one on Section 1, and there were brick kilns on Section 13 and 14, but these industries have long since passed away.

In early days Samuel Tucker kept a tavern at his home, a double log house on Section 2.

Coal was discovered in 1847, on Section 15, by Jacob Kightlinger.

Elba township was organized in April, 1853, as Liberty township, but the same year its name was changed to Elba. N. S. Barber was named Moderator and J. W. Himes, Clerk. Forty-nine votes were cast, resulting in the choice of James H. Nicholson for Supervisor; H. L. Bailey, Assessor; Henry Smith, Collector; J. W. Himes, Clerk; H. Oberholtzer, John West and K. Himes, Commissioners of Highways; John West and B. F. Johnson, Justices of the Peace; William Searles, Overseer of the Poor; Henry Smith, Constable.

The present officers are: H. W. Oberholtzer, Supervisor; J. P. Cecil, Assessor; Thomas Stroub, Highway Commissioner; Ralph Baird, Clerk; William Fuller, Justice of the Peace.

Rev. S. S. Miles, a Methodist minister, preached the first sermon in the township at the home of Mr. Lambert, in 1839. Preachers would come through the country and services would be held at different homes, on any day. After the school houses were built, services were held in them. The Rev. Cross, who figures prominently in Underground Railroad affairs, lived in this township and preached at various places. In Oct. 1854, he lectured to a fair-sized crowd in the newly-built Pleasant Hill school house, the first meeting held in the building. For years quarterly meetings were held in groves through the township and "protracted" meetings in the various school houses. Sunday School was held in the school houses, also.

The first church was built by the Methodists, in 1874, on Section 17, and was dedicated in June of that year, by President Evans of Hedding College. No regular services have been held in this church for some time now. In 1875 the Presby-

terians built a Church on Section 10, but as many of the members soon after died or left the township, the building was sold and moved. In 1876 the Methodists erected a church on Section 13, which is called Bethel. No services have been held here for some months. In early days the Bible and religion were the principal subjects for discussion whenever thinking men got together, taking the place now filled by politics and events of the day.

At one time there was a strong leaning toward temperance in the community and a Good Templar Lodge was organized in 1867, and a hall built on Section 16, but gradually interest died out, and the members dropped out one by one. In 1876 the building was sold and turned into a dwelling.

The first farms received very little cultivation; indeed it was not needed to raise a good crop. When the hazel-brush was cleared off the land, the soil was very productive, and it is said that on this newly cleared land, after the seed had been scattered by hand, it was sometimes brushed into the soil by drawing the bough of a tree over it. On prairie land the sod was sometimes cut with a spade and the seed dropped into the cut. Usually however, new land was broken with a breaking plow drawn by several yoke of oxen. With these plows, brush eight or ten feet tall would be turned under. A free negro, named Solomon Bradley, did considerable breaking for Elba farmers.

When ready to harvest the grain was cut with a cradle and threshed out on the barn floor either with flails or trampled by horses. Corn when harvested and even wheat was often piled up on the ground outside, with no protection but a rail pen around it, but little spoilage resulting.

At first the amount of live stock raised was comparatively small, as there was not a very good market for it. Hogs had to be killed and dressed on the farm, then hauled from 10 to 40 miles or even farther, to market. After the railroad from Peoria to Galesburg was built, and it became possible to ship live stock to market, more cattle and hogs were raised on the farms, until at the present day it is no uncommon thing to see a drove of from 100 to 200 on a farm.

There are many good herds of cattle found on the farms of Elba, some being pure-bred, while others are high grade. The first pure-bred Shorthorn cattle were brought into the township by G. W. Kennedy in 1866, and at one time he had a herd of 126 head. Some years ago there was a strong inclination toward the raising of Dairy cattle, but of late, owing to the inability of the farmers to secure competent help, and to the high price of dairy feeds, more dual-purpose and beef cattle are being kept.

At first there were very few sheep kept, because the wolves and dogs were so destructive to them, but about the time of the Civil War, when wool became so scarce and high-priced, many farmers bought flocks or added to those they already had. Within the last few years, also, there has been considerable increase in sheep-raising, caused by the high prices of wool and mutton. The first sheep were the coarse-wool kind, but were soon succeeded by the Merino variety. Today the medium wool are about the only kind that are raised here. Many farmers of the township are also interested in raising pure-bred horses.

June 5, 1844, a most destructive wind and rain storm visited Elba township as well as the rest of the county. Houses and barns were unroofed or destroyed and other damage done. It is likely that this is the storm which took the roof off the Widow King's home, destroying much of her personal property.

In May, 1858, another severe storm visited this township. Mrs. James King recalls that all the windows on the west side of their house, both upstairs and down were broken by the hail, and the rain poured in in such volume that, the upstairs floors being tight, it ran down the stairway, like a river. In the northwest part of the township a Mrs. Farster was killed by the storm, and on the farm of J. H. Nicholson a large new born was blown off its foundation.

In August, 1907, a storm of wind, rain and hail passed through the township breaking windows, up-rooting trees and destroying crops. Hail stones, having the circumference of baseballs, but with uneven, jagged edges, were picked up in the path of the storm.

There have been several notably severe snow storms, the worst ones in January and February, 1885, and December, 1917 and January, 1918. In both of these a great amount of snow fell, accompanied by high winds which caused it to drift badly, completely filling and blockading roads, making travel impossible for several days. Even railroad trains were caught in snowdrifts and unable to get through for a couple of days. As the temperature was well below zero, much suffering was caused both to people and animals.

In the Fall of 1869 or '70, in the northeast part of the township, a little Cowley child wandered away and was lost. The mother was attending a quilting at the home of a neighbor. She supposed the child, a little boy of some 2 or 3 years, was playing with the others, but when she was ready to go home he was not to be found. Search about the place failed to reveal him, and soon the entire neighborhood was aroused. The little fellow, thinly clad and without wraps, was found the next morning, face downward on the frozen ground, by his dis-

tracted grandfather, William King. He had died of exposure.

In pioneer days the homes were very simple and scantily furnished. Because of the great distance the early settlers had to come to reach their new homes, and the difficulty of transportation, only such articles were brought along as were deemed necessary. A few dishes and cooking utensils, some chairs, a table, a bed or two, and their bedding would comprise their household furnishings. Often beds would be built into the side or corner of the home, thus simplyfying matters. Many families also owned spinning wheels and looms, and the mother spun yarn and wove cloth for her family's garments. Later rag carpets were woven on these looms, and the homes were thus made more comfortable.

At first fireplaces served both for heating and cooking; these gradually gave place to cook stoves and heating stoves, which today are replaced in many homes by the kitchen range and furnace. The dirt or bare wood floors and rag carpets gave place to carpets of ingrain and brussels and these in turn to polished hardwood floors and velvet rugs.

At first the tallow dip, or candle furnished light, but was superseded by the kerosene lamp, and this in many homes by electric lights or acetylene gas.

The heavy stone-china or pewter dishes have been replaced by china, glass and silver, and the iron pots and skillets by those of aluminum and enameled ware.

The washing and sewing machines, the power churn, vacuum cleaner and bread-mixer have been brought into many homes to make easier the farm woman's work.

Where fifty years ago the organ in an Elba home was a novelty, today there are very few homes without an organ, piano, phonograph or musical instrument of some sort.

As the pioneers became prosperous and conditions easier, the old log cabin was found insufficient and new and more commodious homes of frame or brick were built. Many of these houses, built fifty or sixty years ago, are still in use, and, so substantial were the materials of which they were made, and so thorough the workmanship employed in their construction that today they compare favorably with houses built many years later. Of these homes, probably none is much if any older than the brick house built by J. H. Nicholson on Section 25 in 1848, which is at present the home of his grandson.

Life was by no means all work and no play for the early settlers. There were house-raisings and barn-raisings to call the men together and quite needless to say there was always much pleasure to be had at such a time. At butchering time also

several neighbors would be called in to help. The women had their quiltings and apple-parings, while the young people took especial delight in singing and spelling school and dances. Visiting played an important part in the lives of these hard-working people and helped to keep alive in the community a spirit of neighborliness and good-fellowship.

They were a very hospitable people, and though their accommodations might be meager, seldom was the traveler turned away from their door, even though he were a stranger.

On the whole the residents of Elba are very prosperous; most of the farms are attractively located, well cultivated and improved and the houses generally comfortable and commodious buildings, some having all the conveniences of city homes.

Elba has always done her part in whatever way she was called upon. During the Civil War she sent her share of soldiers to the front, and fine young men they were, too, some of whom did not live to come back to their homes, but found graves in Southern battlefields. During the recent World War she sent her quota of noble manhood, regardless of the fact that they could ill be spared, and gave generously of money to help the Red Cross and other war activities.

This is the only township in the county without a railroad. Neither is there a Post Office or business house of any kind within its limits. About three-fourths of the township is fine, rolling prairie, with a rich, black, loamy soil, especially suited to the production of cereals, being one of the best townships in the county for that purpose. A yield of 52 bushels of wheat per acre and 75 bushels of oats has been known.

The population in 1910 was 619.

ANNALS OF GALESBURG

By Martha Farnham Webster

The annals of Galesburg are cherished in the hearts of her children. The children of the Founders, their children, and their children's children, for generations to come, may well look back with emotions of pride and veneration upon the successful fulfillment of a worthy purpose by those men and women of sterling worth and noble achievement—the Founders of Galesburg—the Colonists of 1836-37.

The founding of Galesburg was the fulfillment of a dream which took hold upon the fancy of the Rev. George W. Gale of Whitesboro, N. Y., and which held him under its potent spell until it became a ruling passion with him. It came to him not only as a “dream, in a vision of the night when deep sleep falleth upon man,” but by day and by night, for many days and nights in succession it held in thrall, until no longer able or willing to ignore its influence, he yielded to its spell and gave up a work which he had successfully promoted for seven years and devoted his every talent and energy to the carrying out of a plan which had been maturing in his thought and seeking fulfillment at his hand.

Before entering into a discussion of this plan, viz., a scheme for the founding of an institution of learning somewhere in the far, unknown western country which had begun to stretch forth beckoning hands to the substantial citizens of New York and New England to come out and possess the land, let us learn something of the previous history of that man who was above all others the founder of the town, the college, and the church, and whose name set as a signet in the name of our fair city, shall be held in honored remembrance so long as the city itself remains.

George Washington Gale was born in Stanford, Dutchess County, New York, December 3, 1789. He was the only son and the youngest child of his parents, and was of frail constitution and delicate health. At eight years of age he was left an orphan to the care of his older sisters, of whom there were eight, all of them well-married and living in the home neighborhood. Naturally their oversight of the young, only brother was most tender and loving, but it was also tinged with the austerity which characterized the rigid methods of family government in that period. They kept him constantly employed, either in study, or in the thousand nameless duties that fall to the lot of a willing and obedient boy on a large farm.

George Gale was ambitious and much devoted to study, and at an early age he entered Union College in Schenectady,

N. Y., successfully completed the course of study and was graduated with honor. From Union College he went to Princeton Theological Seminary, then, as now, one of the leading Theological schools of this country. But his health did not permit him to complete the course of study in the Seminary, and greatly to his regret, he was compelled to leave the school, hoping, however, to return at some future time to finish his course. This he did in 1819, at thirty years of age. In the meantime he had been licensed to preach, and during the period of rest from his studies, he labored as a Home Missionary in a comparatively new territory in northern New York. During this period he was actively engaged in evangelistic work and was the means of organizing a number of churches in that territory. Returning to Princeton and completing the course there, he immediately thereafter accepted a call to the church at Adams, Jefferson County, N. Y., riding thither on horseback from Princeton, New Jersey.

After a time failing health again compelled Mr. Gale to give up his work, and he resigned from this, his first and last regular pastorate, much to the regret of all. Seeking health in a milder climate, he went to Virginia and spent some months there. His experiences in the South and his contact and intercourse with people of a different type broadened his vision and taught him lessons which were of value to him in later years. Step by step he was led into experiences which would especially fit him for taking up the crowning work of his life.

Improved in health, Mr. Gale returned to New York, but found himself still unable to take up the duties of a pastorate. He therefore found a temporary home in a comfortable old-fashioned house on a small farm in Oneida County, N. Y. This old farm house proved to be the source and inspiration of the dream to which we have referred—the dream which led him on to the establishment of a school for young men with limited means, and later to the development of a plan which resulted in the founding of Knox College and the City of Galesburg.

Briefly, the plan was to provide an opportunity for young men of small means, or of no means at all, to secure an education; preferably for those who had the gospel ministry in view. He invited young men of the neighborhood to come to him for instruction. Half a dozen young men responded, and to these he gave instruction and furnished books, while they each agreed to perform three hours' daily work upon the farm in return.

The plan was a success, and attracted much attention with the result that after a time with the aid of interested friends, he founded a school in the village of Whitesboro, Oneida County, New York, which bore the name of Manual Labor In-

stitute. This experiment proved to be the germ and the gradual development of the project which resulted in the organization of the Galesburg colony and the founding of Knox College.

Mr. Gale remained with the school at Whitesboro for seven years. In 1834 he retired from the management and entered into a new scheme looking toward the founding of an institution of learning in the far away western country, then so largely unoccupied or even unexplored.

He carefully prepared a "Circular and Plan" clearly setting forth his enlarged scheme. (This interesting document is quoted in full, beginning at page 9 in the volume entitled "Seventy-five Significant Years—The Story of Knox College," prepared by the writer of these annals at the request of the trustees of Knox College.)

Mr. Gale sent out his circular and set about securing subscriptions to his enterprise, making a personal canvass among his friends in Central and Eastern New York, striving to interest both clergymen and laymen in the plan in which he himself was so deeply and vitally interested. In the early part of the year 1835, he had secured a sufficient number of subscriptions to justify an organization of the effort, and the action was therefore taken which was to be of such untold influence and importance in the years to come.

An organization was accomplished in the First Presbyterian Church in Rome, New York, on the 6th of May, 1835. A Prudential Committee was selected which was composed of six men who were empowered to fill out their number to eleven members. These six men were Walter Webb of Adams, Nehemiah West of Ira, Thomas Gilbert of Rome, John C. Smith of Utica, George W. Gale of Whitesboro, and H. H. Kellogg of Clinton. Where should the new enterprise be located? Where should be found the ways and means for carrying it to completion? These were the questions which involved long and earnest discussion on the part of this committee.

An exploring committee must be named. Who should be selected to undertake this highly important and responsible work? The choice fell upon Nehemiah West, Thomas Gilbert and T. B. Jervis for the exploring committee, and the Rev. George W. Gale was to enlist families and secure funds for the new colony.

By June, 1835, about one-half of the proposed sum was subscribed; that is, about \$20,000. Only about \$6,000 of this was ever paid. But, having "set their hands to the plow," the promoters of this enterprise would not turn back, and so, on the 6th day of June, 1835, was held in Rome, N. Y., the first meeting of the subscribers. Of that meeting the Rev. John

Waters, afterward a conspicuous figure in the Galesburg colony, was made chairman and T. B. Jervis, secretary. The following were appointed trustees of the fund: Messrs. Walter Webb, Nehemiah West, Thomas Gilbert, John C. Smith, G. W. Gale and H. H. Kellogg; and as already stated, Rev. George W. Gale was general agent.

Thirty-three persons had given their approval to the plan and had subscribed \$21,000 toward carrying it into execution, but only about half the names on that original subscription list became permanent names on the records of the colony. The list contained, of course, the names which have been mentioned above in connection with the various committees, and others, making forty-six in all, many of the names never appearing in the annals of the colony. (A list of the original subscribers may be found on page 12-13 in the volume to which reference has been made, "Seventy-five Significant Years." The book may be found in the Galesburg Public Library and the Library of Knox College, the State Historical Library at Springfield, Ill., and the Library of Memorial Continental Hall, Washington, D. C.)

The exploring committee was instructed to explore the prairie state of Indiana and Illinois between the fortieth and forty-second degrees of north latitude, with reference to the best location for the proposed settlement. The intructions give evidence of shrewd calculation on the part of those who drafted them and are so explicit in every detail that unwise or ill advised action on the part of the committee could scarcely have been possible. (An interesting outline of these instructions may be found on page 15 of "Seventy-five Significant Years.")

The committee went out as instructed, explored the regions designated, fixed upon a location in Knox County in the State of Illinois, and returning made their report to the subscribers at their second meeting, August 19, 1835. The report was accepted and a purchasing committee was appointed, consisting of Rev. George W. Gale, Silvanus Ferris and Nehemiah West. Their instructions were to purchase not less than twenty sections of land and as much more as their funds would allow, one-tenth of which must be timber and the rest prairie, and for which the government price of \$1.25 per acre was to be paid. Three sections should be reserved for college and village purposes and the rest sold to actual settlers at \$5.00 per acre. The surplus thus accruing was to constitute the endowment of the college; while the proceeds from the sale of village lots were to be used toward the endowmnt of a Female Seminary.

And so the purchasing committee set out upon that final mission in this great enterprise—the purchase of the land on

which now stands the fair city of Galesburg as a monument to their wise and far-sighted investment.

The story of the journey of the purchasing committee is most interestingly told in a letter written by Nehemiah West, one of the committee, to a relatives, immediately after his return from the trip. We quote portions of the letter. After describing the experiences of the journey, some of them perilous and all of them interesting and which occupied three months for the round trip, he referred to the purchase of the site selected by the exploring committee; he says: "We proceeded to Illinois and after examining all the places visited by the committee in the spring, we selected a location in the county of Knox, lying nearly central between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers in the Military Tract, 150 miles southwest from Chicago and about 40 miles west of Peoria. We purchased about 20,000 acres nearly in a square form, mostly prairie. It is a fine tract of land in a very healthy country, well watered and supplied with abundance of stone and coal. We surveyed it out into lots of eighty acres each, agreeable to our plan of distribution among subscribers.

In the center we laid off three contiguous sections of 640 acres each, for college and village purposes—two for the college and one for the village—stuck the stakes of our college building and returned home. * * * We have about thirty families, all pious, who are to settle together, so you see we have the prospect of a good society and the facilities for educating our children. We expect to start with our families as soon as the roads are passable in the spring. I have a log cabin ready to move into till I can build and 40 acres broken up all ready for any kind of grain. We expect to break and fence 200 or 300 acres of the college land next season and sow it to wheat.

Crop Conditions

Thirty bushels to the acre is the usual product for the first crop. It is worth six shillings per bushel, eighty bushels to the acre of corn, worth two shillings per bushel, but it is worth more to feed, as pork is worth \$4.00 per cwt. to send to New Orleans." The last paragraph quoted gives us an idea of the crop conditions of that period and the financial returns which the early settlers received from their produce.

Comparative Prices, 1836-1918

In 1836 wheat sold for between \$1.40 and \$1.50 per bushel; corn sold for 50 cents per bushel and hogs for \$4.00 per hundred. Now, in 1918, wheat is worth \$2.10 per bushel, corn \$1.50 per bushel and hogs are selling for \$20.00 per hundred weight, and therefore, now, as then, the farmers find that corn is "worth more to feed" than to sell.

The First Company Sets Out for "The West."

As early in the spring of 1836 as the roads would permit, "the advance guard of the army of occupation" under the leadership of Nehemiah West, left their pleasant homes in New York and started westward. They journeyed in strong, well-built, canvas covered wagons drawn by patient, plodding horses. Their rate of progress was that of about as many miles per day as the average railway train covers in an hour. Four long weeks measured their slow and toilsome length before the new home was reached and they beheld "the city of their dreams."

The First Dwellings

And what did they look upon? Not a city of comfortable homes, of schools and churches and business houses, as were their own familiar Utica and Albany, not even the pretty, peaceful village nestling at the foot of the green hills from which they turned their faces as they bade good-bye to home and friends; but just a few rude log cabins standing in the outskirts of a "stretch of timber" that bordered an apparently limitless expanse of trackless, treeless prairie. These cabins were located three and one-half miles northwest of the center of the site of their future city of Galesburg. They had been built and occupied by settlers coming up from Kentucky and other parts of the south, who had within the five or six years previous fringed the grove with a tier of farms and had then vacated their cabins presumably for more commodious quarters. There were not enough of these cabins to accommodate even the first party that arrived, but they distributed themselves as best they could until they could build cabins for themselves, and in their turn vacate those they found to be occupied by a succession of later arrivals who came during the summer and fall of 1836 and the spring of 1837. Some of the young people slept in corn cribs belonging to the cabins, or were housed in tents made of boughs until a sufficient number of cabins could be built for the shelter of all who came; albeit they must be crowded to the extent of two and three families in a single room of these rude buildings.

"Log City"

The cluster of cabins which thus sprang up along the edge of Henderson Grove, and scattered for a mile or more along the woodland trail, came to be known in the history of the colony as "Log City," a name revered and honored in the hearts of all true and loyal descendants of the Founders.

Description of the First Cabins

Prof. George Churchill of Knox College in one of his historical papers says: "It would astonish a modern builder to

examine one of these mansions. Some of them were built without as much as a single nail or pane of glass in the entire structure. Log walls were chinked with mud, outside chimney constructed of sticks and clay, with upper aperture so large as not only to give egress to the smoke, but ingress to the light when the cabin door was shut. Doors made of split boards fastened with wooden pins to a wooden hinge; a punch-eon floor, and roof covered with shakes (narrow strips of wood) held down by heavy log riders.

First Rude Furnishings

The furniture was at first as rude as the cabins. Boxes, barrels and short logs were the chairs, a larger box the table, and a one-post bed stood in one corner of the room."

Shipments of Furniture Long Delayed

One reason for the utter crudeness of the furniture thus described, and the lack of household conveniences of all kinds was the fact that their goods were shipped by water and were delayed many weeks after the colonists themselves had arrived on the scene. The "one-post bed" referred to above was constructed in this way: A pole was mortised into a log at the end of the room at a proper distance from the corner to measure the width of the bed. Another pole was mortised into the side wall at the distance of a bed's length. The two poles which came together at a right angle were supported by a third upright post which constituted the only outer support. Ropes were interlaced across and around these poles forming by their network a foundation for a straw bed, the popular mattress of that day. A straw or husk or hay mattress made a fragrant wholesome resting place, providing the filling of the ticks was replenished often enough to meet sanitary requirements. A third bed was often made between the two corner beds by placing four "chests" side by side. These chests were a necessary article in the household furniture of every family. They contained the wearing apparel of the family, and every time an article stored in them was needed, the bedding had to be removed. The one room was equipped with a stove for cooking and heating purposes, or sometimes with only a fireplace. One of the stoves in a Log City home has been thus described: The stove was in the shape of an oblong box with one large opening in the center of the top; directly underneath this was the fire-box with a wide, projecting hearth in front where the hoe-cakes were toasted.

In these crowded, crude, and necessarily unsanitary quarters they cooked, and ate, and slept and suffered all kinds of privations and hardships, but remained strong in courage and hope. The manner of housing and furnishing was only a temporary "make shift" until their furniture arrived and

more comfortable houses could be built. Before the winter drew near they were all comfortably housed in log cabins, sufficient in number and capacity for their immediate needs. The cold weather of the autumn of 1836 found 175 residents in Log City busily preparing for the coming winter. During the winter the men were busy getting timber ready for the houses to be built on the prairie in the spring. After the first saw-mill was put up, house building began in good earnest.

First Saw Mill in 1837

A steam saw mill was built on colony land in Henderson Grove by John Kendall and was completed in 1837. Previous to the completion of this mill sawed lumber for building was only obtainable by hauling logs from Henderson Grove to Knoxville, and paying for the mill work with two-thirds of the boards. Naturally it was greatly to the advantage of the colonists to have their own saw mills located upon colony land. The next year the Ferris brothers, Western, Olmsted, and William, sons of Silvanus Ferris, built the second mill two miles northwest of the Kendall mill, and shortly afterward a third saw mill was erected in Galesburg by Nehemiah West, Erastus Swift, and George W. Gale. This mill was located on the north side of Ferris Street between West and Academy. Although located four miles from the nearest timber the output of this latter mill was in great demand and found ready use at the point where it was turned out. And doubtless the combined output of the three mills was needed to meet the demands of the colonists who were building their village and their farm houses upon the prairies during these first busy years from 1836 to 1840. The houses upon the prairie were, with an exception, frame houses, albeit they were plain and modest in their structure. An early settler in writing of these buildings says, "In the early days of the Galesburg settlement few villages in Illinois could boast of painted houses and the white dwellings of the embryo city attracted the pleased attention of eastern travelers. This distinction was rendered possible by the oil mill built and operated by Leonard Chappell on Kellogg street, between Main and Ferris. There oil might be had in exchange for flax seed raised on the farms."

The first dwelling house built upon the site of the city of Galesburg was that of William Holyoke, and it stood on the lot now occupied by the Mathews block, between Prairie and Kellogg streets, and on the north side of Main street. A frame house built at Log City and occupied by Riley Root and his family was placed upon large sleds and in that way removed to the village on the prairie and located upon the lot at the northwest corner of Main and Cherry streets in the block now occupied by the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, the Rearick Hardware Store, etc.

The First Meeting House

The log cabin of Hugh Conger has the distinction of having been the first meeting house of the colonists, it being more commodious than some of the others, as was necessary for his family of seven children. But before the cold weather of their first winter set in a more commodious and comfortable building was provided which was designed for both church and school purposes.

First Building for Both Church and School Purposes

This was a two-room building with a wide door between the rooms in which the speaker stood so as to be readily seen and heard from both rooms. It was constructed of split timbers, roofed with split shakes, floored with split boards, and when the saw mill began to run, ceiled upon the inside with rough basswood boards and the space between the clapboards and the ceiling filled with saw-dust. Professor Churchill says: "It would not be much out of the way to say that in this very building the first term of Knox College was held with Professor Nehemiah H. Losey as principal and Miss Lucy Gay as assistant."

First Public School Building

It also served the purpose of a public school and was the only building for that purpose until the following year, or possibly two years, when the first public school building devoted primarily and especially to that purpose was erected in the new village on the prairie. It stood on the northeast corner of the public square facing the south. It could boast of one feature of the most approved and up-to-date type; that is, the floor was inclined from the front to the rear of the room, so that the teacher standing or seated by his desk at the further end could readily supervise the deportment of the pupils.

First Public School Teacher

Among the many who held sway over this school from 1840 to 1850 were Eli Farnham, who had the distinction of being the first teacher of the first public school in Galesburg; James H. Noteware, afterward superintendent of public schools for the State of Kansas; Marshall Delong, one of the most popular and successful teachers of the early day, in this vicinity; George Churchill, prince of teachers from the very beginning of his long career in the school and class-room; and Henry McCall, whose wife and daughter, Miss Ida McCall, many years thereafter, were both of them, and for a number of years both at the same time, the honored and beloved teachers of many successive classes in Knox Academy.

Development of Galesburg Public Schools

From that small beginning the Galesburg Public School

system has developed and increased until it has reached the following proportions: In the fall of 1918 there are twelve buildings with a total enrollment of 3,721 pupils. The High School is a modern, well-equipped building of forty-four rooms. The grade buildings range in size from four to thirteen rooms. There are one hundred twenty-eight instructors and supervisors and fifteen secretaries and other helpers, making in all one hundred forty-three upon the pay roll. The school buildings with the exception of the High School and the Central Primary are named in honor of the two most distinguished men our state has given to the nation; for Presidents and Professors in our Colleges, and for substantial citizens who have given efficient service upon the board of trustees in the colleges, and the board of education in the Public schools. These are the names:

Names of Public School Buildings

Lincoln, Douglas, Weston, Bateman, Churchill, Hitchcock, Cooke, Farnham, Silas Willard and L. T. Stone. An attractive and finely equipped gymnasium was completed during the summer of this centennial year, and to this building is given the name of the W. L. Steele Gymnasium, in memory of the lamented superintendent of our city schools who for thirty-three years devoted himself untiringly and with pronounced success to the improvement and the upbuilding of these schools and died in May, 1918, just previous to his voluntary retirement from the active service which he had so well performed.

But to go back to the autumn of 1837. At this time so many had moved out to their farms or to the village upon the prairie, that the church services were held alternately at the grove and at the village, in the latter place the meetings being held in a store building which was owned by Matthew Chambers and was located at the intersection of Main street with the Public Square, east of the Square and on the south side of Main street.

Population of the Town at the Close of 1837.

By the close of 1837 there was a community numbering 232. Of these 175 came in 1836 and 57 in 1837. Besides these there were at least two families belonging to the original colony who settled elsewhere. Mr. Thomas Gilbert settled in Knoxville and Mr. Isaac Wetmore in Ontario. But the colonists of 1836 and 1837 were the original "Old Settlers," and these were they who, building themselves, "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor," into the structure of the College, the Church, and the community, won for themselves the distinctive title of "The Founders." As a matter of historic interest interest and for purposes of information to further inquirers we give below the names of the colonists of 1836 and 1837, the "Founders of Galesburg."

Names of Colonists—1836

The first company who arrived on the second day of June, 1836, consisted of the following persons: Mr. and Mrs. Nehemiah West and their five children; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Conger and seven children; Miss Elizabeth Hudson; Mr. Barber Allen and his son, Daniel; and the young men, John G. West and Abram Tyler.

The First Wedding, August 31, 1836

Miss Elizabeth Hudson and Mr. Henry Ferris were the principals in the first wedding of the colony. They were married August 31, 1836, only two months after the arrival of Miss Hudson. Mr. Ferris had spent the previous winter, that of 1835-1836, in one of the log cabins in Henderson Grove, and was on the ground to welcome the first company on its arrival. There is a difference of opinion as to whether he lived entirely alone in his cabin, or had the company of another man, one of the Goodell family.

Other Companies Arrive

The names of other colonists who arrived with their families during the summer and fall of 1836 are the following: Messrs. George and H. Troop Avery, their mother and sisters; Mathew Chambers; Leonard Chappell; C. S. Colton; Patrick Dunn; Caleb Finch; Lusher Gay; Daniel Griffith; Abel Goodell; William Hamblin; John Haskins; Mrs. Sarah Warner Hitchcock, a widow and her sons, Elam and Samuel; the two Kendall brothers, Adoniram and John; Elisha King; John McMullen; Isaac Colton; Roswell Payne; Riley Root; Thomas Simmons; Erastus and Job Swift; Daniel Wheeler, and Henry Willcox. The most of them had families of two or more little children. Two of the young men were married during the summer or fall of 1836. This list does not include the members of the canal boat company who arrived about August 1, 1836. Rev. George W. Gale with his wife and family of young children arrived quite late in the fall of 1836.

“The Canal Boat Company,” 1836.

The historic “canal boat trip” of the summer of 1836 was made up of a series of vicissitudes and disasters seldom paralleled in the annals of pioneer emigration. The company numbered thirty-seven and included men, women and children ranging in age from an infant of six weeks to men and women of forty or fifty years. The persons making up this party were: Captain John C. Smith and wife (Mr. Smith being one of the subscribers to Mr. Gale’s enterprise, and the promoter of this water trip for the party); Miss Catherine Ann Watson, a niece of Mrs. Smith, and two little sons of Dr. Grant, a Nestorian missionary who came under their care; Mr. and Mrs. Mills, two sons and a daughter; Miss Hannah Adams, a sister of Mrs.

Mills; a girl named Mariah Fox, and a negro boy named Harry, who was under the charge of Mr. Mills; Mr. Lyman, his wife, two sons and two daughters; Mr. Orrin Kendall, his wife and two little sons; John Kendall; N. H. Losey, his wife, and one child; Henry Hitchcock, a brother of Mrs. Losey; Mrs. Clarissa Phelps, two daughters and one son, two nieces and a nephew (the children of Riley Root); John Bryan and a negro who steered the boat. The disastrous experiences of this party are related in Chapter VI of the book entitled "Seventy-five Significant Years," to which we have previously referred. They are of pathetic and tragic interest.

Arrivals in Spring of 1837

In the spring of 1837 a number of substantial citizens with their families arrived to swell the population of the little community. Among them were the following, the most of them married and with children of various ages: Silvanus Ferris (although one of the chief promoters of the enterprise, he was one of the later arrivals), his sons William and Olmstead, both of them married; Mr. Ferris' son-in-law, Dr. James Bruce; J. P. Frost, the founder of the Frost Manufacturing Company, and wife; Eli Farnham and wife; H. H. May, the inventor of the first steel plow, and wife; Agrippa Martin and family; Levi Sanderson and family; Junius Prentice and family; Sheldon Allen, wife and infant son; Jonathan Simmons and wife; Harvey Jerauld; Western Ferris; N. O. Ferris; George Ferris and possibly others. One section at least of this group of families was six weeks on the way. Judging from the record of the names of the towns and villages touched along the route, their line of travel was much the same as that followed by the Michigan Central railroad today.

Methods of Travel Then and Now

The early methods of travel were as we have seen, slow, wearisome and hazardous. They were in almost overwhelming contrast to the luxurious service and the rapid transit afforded by the railroads, the ocean liners, the private motor cars, and most amazing of all, the air craft of the present day. Many have made the mistake of concluding that the Galesburg colonists traveled from the East in wagons drawn by ox teams. This is not true. They came either in wagons covered with canvas to protect them from the weather and drawn by strong horses, or by the water route which included in its devious course the Erie canal, Lake Erie, the Ohio canal, the Ohio River, and the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. Some of the men who came singly came by water as far as Chicago, which was then a village of a few hundred inhabitants, and then by horseback the remainder of the way.

The Pioneers from the Southern States

The southerners who settled along the outskirts of Henderson Grove five or six years previous to the coming of our colonists made the journey on horseback bringing with them their personal belongings and such small articles of furniture as they could carry upon pack horses. A remarkable example of pioneer enterprise and intrepid adventure may be found in the case of Mrs. Henrietta Brown, the widowed mother of eight sons and daughters who grew up to be prominent and useful citizens in the townships adjacent to Henderson Grove. When the spirit of emigration took hold upon a group of her friends and neighbors, substantial citizens of the "Kentucky Blue Grass Country," she joined their ranks and with her children, ranging in age from an infant to young manhood and womanhood, she journeyed from Kentucky with a train of horses of the fine old Kentucky stock, sufficient in number to transport herself and her children, the family clothing and bedding and a few pieces of furniture. The children who were too small to ride alone, and the younger ones too numerous to ride upon the horse with their mother were suspended in panniers swung across the backs of the pack horses.

The First Fort in Knox County

Upon the tract of Government land which Mrs. Brown acquired which was located about seven miles N. W. of Galesburg, the first fort or stockade in Knox County was erected. This served the purpose of a dwelling for her family and a place of refuge for the neighbors in case of alarm from the Indian bands who roamed the prairie at that period. Later, when that building became too small to protecting the increasing population, another fort was built upon the premises of her son-in-law, Peter Franz, and was located about one-half the distance between the first fort and the present site of Galesburg. Two other forts erected in Knox County in that early period as protection against the Indians were located respectively on Section 10 in Henderson Township and S. E. of Knoxville in Orange Township. The forts N. W. of the site of Galesburg were called Fort Aggie and Fort Lewis.

The First Store

The first store in the community was conducted by one of the colonists from Maine, Mr. Chauncey S. Colton, who came in the season of 1836. It is said that, with true Yankee thrift and enterprise, he began to sell goods in one end of the log cabin of one of the Kentucky settlers, with whom he and his family were quartered until his store building about a mile farther west, in the Log City neighborhood, could be completed. This building is described as an 8 by 10 foot structure in which Mr. Colton displayed a varied assortment of goods—

"a department store" in embryo. But about this nucleus he gathered a fortune as the years passed by, until he became one of the wealthiest men of his day in this section of the state. As the homes upon the prairie were occupied Mr. Colton removed his stock of goods to a building on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main street and the Public Square in the village which building also served the purpose for his family for a number of years.

Others Stores

During that same season other stores were opened by Mathew Chambers and Levi Sanderson who also carried on a thriving and prosperous business and were reckoned among the moneyed men of the county.

Commercial Development Along All Lines

The mercantile business thus started has developed along all lines suited to household needs until Galesburg with its various wholesale and retail business houses has become the commercial center for a large area of one of the richest tracts of country in the state.

First Academy Building

Late in the fall of 1838 the first Academy building was finished and occupied. It stood where the First National Bank building now stands, on the northeast corner of Main and Cherry streets. Years ago it was moved farther north to the middle of the block, facing Cherry street, and was at first used as a private residence, and afterward as a boarding house. This historic structure was demolished early in the spring of 1918, and is now only a memory.

With the Academy building completed and occupied by an academic department of forty students and a corps of teachers, it began to look as if Mr. Gale's great idea was about to be realized. The college had entered upon its career of usefulness. But since it could not spring into being fully equipped it must first be established upon a strong and durable foundation. That foundation was the preparatory school, the Academy.

First Knox College Faculty

The first faculty of the college was composed of five members. They were the following: Rev. Hiram H. Kellogg, President; Rev. George W. Gale, Acting Professor of Languages; Nehemiah H. Losey, A. M., Professor of Mathematics and Natural Science; James H. Smith, A. B., Tutor; Miss Julia Chandler, Preceptress of the "Female Department." After the required training in the Academy the first Freshman class was ready to enter upon the regular college curriculum in the fall of 1841, five years after the arrival of the colonists at "Log City."

First Knox Commencement

In June, 1846, the first Knox Commencement Day occurred, and a class of nine young men was graduated. Of these, five became ministers, two of whom were foreign missionaries, two became physicians, one a professor in college, and one a farmer. Dr. Jonathan Blanchard, who became President of the college in 1845, had the distinction of presiding over this first notable occasion and with this event the Idea had fully materialized, the dream came true.

Numbers Then and Now

Some figures by way of comparison will show the development of the college up to the present time. The first college faculty numbered five. The faculty at the beginning of the school year, 1918, numbered 24. The first graduating class numbered 9; the class of 1918 numbered 50. Presumably the first Freshman class numbered 9, although we have not the figures at hand. The Freshman class in the fall of 1918 numbered 292. Of these 235 were inducted into the Student's Army Training Corps, according to the new order of things throughout the entire country in consequence of the "World War." There were in all 301 new students of whom 288 were men. A large number of men who would naturally have swelled the ranks of the other classes had enlisted for active service in the army and were either in the training camps or had gone "overseas."

Lombard College

In the year 1851, another college was founded in Galesburg by the Universalists, of which denomination there were a number of influential families among the early settlers. The intention was at first to make it more of a preparatory school than a college, and it was to be known as the Illinois Liberal Institute. Accordingly on February 15, 1851, a charter was granted to this new enterprise under that name. In 1852 the school opened its doors to pupils in a new building which was erected on the northwest corner of Tompkins and Seminary streets. The first faculty was composed of two teachers, the Rev. Paul Raymond Kendall and a lady assistant who not long afterward became his wife. Between sixty and seventy pupils were at first enrolled. Dr. Kendall was President and his wife, who was a lady of versatile accomplishments was able to assist him in the various branches taught.

Dr. J. V. N. Standish

In 1854, John Van Ness Standish, a descendant of Captain Myles Standish of "Pilgrim" fame, was added to the faculty. He was a native of Vermont and a graduate of Norwich University. From the time of his arrival in Galesburg to the present time, for a period of seventy-four years, the presence

among us of this honored citizen has been a powerful influence and aid in the up-building of our city. Educational, moral, reformatory, phalanthropic, beneficent, and all other measures looking toward our city's growth and well being have been vigorously, untiringly, and generously supported by him. For forty-one years he has been President of the Park Board, and in that office and also as City Forester, his labors for the beautifying of our city have been of inestimable value. Had he accomplished no other work during his long and fruitful life, that which he has done for the improvement and beautifying of Galesburg would have won for him the tribute : "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Mrs. Harriet Augusta Standish

His wife, who as Miss Harriet Augusta Kendall, a cousin of of the President, came also to join the faculty of the new enterprise in 1854, was a woman of very superior mental attainments and culture. After her marriage to Dr. Standish she became his inspirer, his helper, and his counselor in all his undertakings. She joined with him in large gifts for educational purposes, and beautiful Standish Park, the Knox campus, Lombard campus, and many private grounds in our city are a monument to their mutual plans and personal efforts. "Should you seek their monument, look about you." In 1855 the building of the Liberal Institute was burned to the ground, and a new project for the school came to the front. Its trustees decided that in planning for a new and better building, plans for the school should also be enlarged.

Benj. Lombard, Sr.

They began to solicit funds with the new building, the higher standards, and the enlarged course of study as their objective. Mr. Benjamin Lombard, Sr., a wealthy Universalist of a neighboring town promised to give \$20,000 to the enterprise, providing the trustees would raise \$15,000 and give his own name to the school. Arrangements were finally made for carrying out this plan, and a new charter was secured naming the school Lombard University. This is the name which its charter still bears, although some years ago the trustees voted to drop the name University, (as their plans for University courses had not been realized), and call it simply Lombard College.

New Location Chosen

The new building was located upon an eighty acre tract, lying one mile S. E. of the original site which gave ample space for such additional buildings as they might need. Mr. Lombard offered to pay for this ground if the trustees would purchase it and locate the building there. The deed was given to the trustees by Lorentus E. and Mary W. Conger and the purchase price was \$3,200.

Dr. Standish is authority for the statement that no college in this section of the country and possibly not one throughout the entire land has been erected under such trying and adverse conditions because of the entire lack of financial resources with which to meet the expense of construction. Mr. Lombard's gift which was large for that day was not available until near the close of the year 1856.

The building was erected by degrees, or in sections as it were. After exhausting the slender means at hand at the beginning of the work, the building waited until further funds could be solicited to meet further expenditures. For example, the foundation was laid, the first story put up, the walls temporarily roofed with boards, and the workmen dismissed until President Kendall could make a tour of the surrounding towns and country-side presenting the needs of the institution, and urgently soliciting contributions, however small, so that the work might go on. Then the walls of the second story were laid and the work again stopped until a second canvass could be made. Finally the third story was finished and permanently roofed, and the skeleton of the shapely structure awaited for many months the interior finishing of partitions, plastered walls and permanent floors.

Lombard's First Commencement—Prof. Standish Presides

The Commencement exercises of the year 1857 were held in the building temporarily fitted up for the occasion, and Professor Standish, then acting President while President Kendall was out soliciting funds, conferred the degrees upon a graduating class of five members. Their names were Fielding Bond, Floyd G. Brown, James H. Chapin, Edward D. Lunn and David Scott Wick. Two of these young men died in early manhood and the other three became prominent in public and professional life.

Divinity School

A Divinity School was for some years connected with this institution, but a number of years ago, it was removed to Chicago University, and Dr. Lewis Beals Fisher, the President, was placed in charge of it while a new President was chosen for the college.

Lombard S. A. T. C.

The present faculty numbers twenty-two, and the college is one of the units of the Student's Army Training Corps, as a result of our country's participation in the great "World War."

The First Church

Up to about 1840 the material growth of the Church was noteworthy for so comparatively brief a period. The organization of the church had been effected in February, 1837, when sixty-four united with the church by letter and eighteen

by profession, making eight-eight on the first enrollment. At the close of a series of revival meetings which followed the occupancy of the new Academy building as a place of worship, fifty-eight names were added to the membership of the church, and its moral power was greatly strengthened.

A New Church Building

Early in the forties it became evident that a "meeting house" must be built. The Academy building erected in 1833 was found to be entirely too small for the gathering congregations for in those days everybody attended church. The history of the meetings and discussions which were held in planning for the ways and means of providing for a new and ample building in those days of great privation and rigid economy form a most interesting chapter in the annals of the colony, but there is not space for it here.

Plans Adopted

A plan for the new building was finally adopted. It was to be sixty feet wide by eighty feet long, and twenty-four feet high from floor to ceiling. As they sat in their unpretentious Academy building and discussed and compared dimensions it seemed to some of them that the height was overwhelming, for the room in which they were assembled measured eight feet "between joists," and twenty-four feet would be three times as high as that room, which would be absurd.

Work of Building Commenced

The original dimensions, however, were adopted and the work commenced. After a time, for lack of money and material, the construction was discontinued; and for months lengthening into years the material which had been gathered lay in unsightly heaps completely filling the southwest corner of the square near the unfinished structure. The building was finally completed sufficiently to be used for the Commencement exercises of 1846. It was not wholly enclosed and not seated, but temporary seats of rough planks and a temporary platform were provided. There was to be still further delay before it was finished. In 1848, the building was at last completed and arrangements were made to dedicate it on Baccalaureate Sunday of Commencement week. The date was June 25th.

President Blanchard preached the sermon and Father Waters offered the dedicatory prayer. He, it was, who with the other members of the purchasing committee, thirteen years before, had knelt with uncovered head upon the unbroken prairie and dedicated the new enterprise to the Lord, imploring His favor and blessing upon it, and upon all who in all time to come should be connected with it. The momentous events of the intervening years and the interesting and im-

pressive exercises of that occasion were in part an answer to that prayer.

At two o'clock of the same day Dr. Gale preached the Baccalaureate sermon and Rev. J. R. Walker gave the address before the Society of Religious Inquiry connected with the College. It was truly a strenuous day for those who attended the entire series of services.

Professor Churchill says of this building subsequent to its completion and dedication: "For many years, as there was no other room in the village so capacious, it was used, not alone for religious meetings, but for musical concerts and scientific lectures, temperance lectures, anti-slavery lectures, and conventions, and mass meetings held in the interests of many of the great reforms of the day. The most eloquent pulpit and platform orators who graced the lecturer's rostrum in the hey-day of its glory always found the old First Church ready to give them welcome. Among those who have lectured there were Ralph Waldo Emerson, Edward Everett, Henry Ward Beecher, Wendell Phillips, John B. Gough, and many others of world wide fame. Many a time I have seen the house so crowded on such occasions that it was almost impossible for the speaker to make his way up the aisle to the platform."

Development of Religious Life in the Community

Since the dedication and occupancy of that First Church of Galesburg, which was a notable achievement for that early period in this section of Illinois, the development of the organized religious life of the community has kept pace with the increase in the population. At the present time there are 16 Protestant churches with a total enrollment of between 6,000 and 7,000 resident members, all of them having upon their rolls non-resident members, who for various reasons, have not severed their connection with the Galesburg Church. These figures represent a church membership equal to about one-fourth of the population. There are also two Roman Catholic churches with a combined membership of somewhat more than 2,000. This includes the baptized children as well as the adults.

Hospitals, Etc., At Present Time

Added to these strictly religious organizations are our philanthropic and beneficent institutions which always go hand in hand with the church. There are two Hospitals; an active and efficient Free Kindergarten Home; an Association Home for the care and comfort of boys and girls too old to be cared for by the Kindergarten, the Young Men's Christian Association, and the Catherine Club, a delightful home for young women who need the atmosphere and the protection of a home in a strange city. The buildings belonging to all of these above mentioned institutions are fine, up-to-date, well equipped build-

ings. A Day Nursery has also been recently started for the purpose of caring for babies and small children whose mothers are obliged to labor during the day, and have no one with whom to leave their helpless children while they are away from home.

Galesburg Railway Service

In 1854 the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad completed its line from Chicago to Galesburg, and in due course of time this city became an important division station on that great rail way system. The first train reached the town on December seventh between seven and eight o'clock in the morning. The impetus which the varied and far-reaching activities of this road have given to the commercial and industrial life of our city has been of inestimable value as a factor in its growth and development. Later, in 1886, the great Santa Fe system (which according to Clark E. Carr is one of the greatest railway systems in the world), surveyed its line through Galesburg, and established one of its important stations here, thus contributing in a large degree to our influence and prosperity. Not every inland prairie town can boast of having given the right of way to two of the greatest trans-continental railway lines of the world, over which tourists and traffic must of necessity unceasingly roll in their passage between the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard.

Notable Events in Galesburg

Galesburg has been the scene of many notable events, some of them involving national and even international issues. Conspicuous among these was the great Lincoln-Douglas Debate of October 7, 1858. This was one of a series of debates between those two great men and pronounced political rivals, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas. These were held at different points throughout the state during the summer and autumn of 1858. The occasion for these notable political discussions known in history as the Lincoln-Douglas Debates was the candidacy of the two men for election to the United States Senate, and the question at issue was the momentous question of slavery, which had become a national issue.

Col. Clark E. Carr in his book, "The Illini," says in reference to these debates: "It may be said of this contest that the Constitution of the United States was the platform and the whole American people the audience, and that upon its issue depended the fate of a continent."

Galesburg in the Civil War

The outbreak of the Civil War, in 1861, aroused Galesburg to a high pitch of patriotic enthusiasm and devotion. Many of the best and noblest of her sons offered themselves to the service of their country and quite a number of them were called

upon to make the "supreme sacrifice," while others suffered from disease and wounds, and the horrors of confinement and starvation in southern prisons, carrying with them for the remainder of their lives the physical effects of their distressing and disabling experience. Among the soldier volunteers were a large number of students from Knox and Lombard colleges. This greatly depleted the enrollment and interrupted the prescribed courses of study in both these institutions from the depressing effects of which they did not soon rally. Too much cannot be said in appreciation of the loyal and sympathetic support of the men in the field by their kindred and friends who remained at home. Especially is this true of the women of Galesburg who were at once organized as a working unit under the name of "The Soldiers' Aid Society," working as systematically, untiringly and effectively as do the women of to-day under the organization of the Red Cross.

Again and yet again were the homes of Galesburg and vicinity opened to receive their dying and their dead, but still undaunted the women toiled on, making garments, scraping lint, filling comfort bags, packing boxes of supplies of all kinds, and writing letters to the soldiers in hospitals and camp.

The reports which have been preserved of the activities of "The Soldiers' Aid Society of Galesburg" and its auxiliaries speak eloquently and thrillingly, and with a touching pathos, of the work of the mothers and sisters, even of the little children in their juvenile societies, for the relief and comfort of the brave boys in blue who had gone out from their midst. The story of what was accomplished for their aid reads like a romance. (A more detailed account of the activities of the women of Galesburg during the Civil War may be found in A. J. Perry's History of Knox County, in the section entitled, "Woman's Work in Knox County," prepared at the request of Mr. Perry by the writer of these annals).

Company C—Illinois National Guards

In the spring of 1893 Galesburg again responded to our country's call for the defense of the honor of the government, in the war which is known in history as the Spanish-American War.

Company C of the 6th Regiment, Illinois National Guards, an organization of Galesburg and Knox County men; a thoroughly organized, well-drilled, efficient company of one hundred men, promptly responded to the summons and held themselves in readiness to obey marching orders.

On the evening of the 26th of April they were entrained for Springfield with the expectation that they would soon be called into active service in Cuba and Porto Rico.

At this call to arms the whole city was aroused as it had

not been before since the days of the Civil War. A great throng, estimated at 10,000 or more of our citizens, gathered first at the armory, where the men of Company C were assembled, and again at the Burlington Station where they were to entrain, to give them last messages of farewell and God-speed.

According to an account of the event given in the columns of the Republican-Register of that date, "the scene growing out of their departure was one such as is witnessed but few times in the life of a generation."

On July 26th following, colored men and boys, more than a score in number, also went forth into their country's service, and were given an enthusiastic send-off by the citizens of the city.

Company C, because of its past record during times of strikes and riots, and also because of its manly and patriotic attitude in the present crisis, was one of whom our city was justly proud. During their service abroad, which happily proved to be but brief, they made a remarkable record in more than one respect.

After some weeks spent in camp, they were ranked among the best of the Illinois troops, they were sent across to Cuba to have a hand in the campaign against the City of Santiago. With other picked men they were assigned to a very important duty in the final charge. The final charge, however, never was made, because of the surrender of the city.

Then came the order to proceed to Porto Rico and our men were among the first of the American troops to arrive there. It is claimed that the men of Company C were the very first of our soldiers to set foot upon that island.

They took part in the campaign there and although the Company suffered no loss in killed or wounded, they suffered greatly from diseases incident to the climate, from distressing unsanitary conditions, from insufficient and improper food and from lack of suitable camping privileges and equipment.

Many of them were sick, almost unto death, and all of them returned emaciated and worn, bearing the marks of great hardships and suffering.

The company took part in but one battle, that of July 25th, and but one skirmish on the following day.

After four months of service, the 6th Regiment was ordered home, and our men with the others embarked from Ponce, Porto Rico, for the United States.

Naturally there was great rejoicing when the news came that they had set sail for home, and large plans were laid for their reception upon their arrival in their home city.

They arrived on Wednesday September 21st, amidst the rejoicing and acclamations of thousands of citizens who had gathered at the Burlington Station and lined the streets for blocks, to express to them their welcome home.

The plans which had previously been made for their reception were successfully carried through in detail.

They included a banquet given them at the Universalist Church by the Army and Navy League, and public exercises at the First M. E. Church, with addresses of welcome and appreciation by Mayor Cooke, Congressman Prince, President John H. Finley of Knox College, Chaplain Ferris of the 6th Regiment, the Rev. Dr. Geistweit of the First Baptist Church and others. Captain T. Leslie McGirr, who so successfully led his men through the entire campaign that they returned home without the loss of one, was called upon to speak, and he responded in behalf of his company.

His men enthusiastically gave him three cheers as he arose to speak and again when he had finished, a fine tribute to his popularity with them.

In the months immediately following their return home other courtesies in the way of public recognition and appreciation were extended to the men of Company C.

Notable among these was an elaborate reception and dinner given by the Ladies' Society of the First Presbyterian Church, which was most complete, beautiful and soul-inspiring in every detail. The dining hall and audience room in the church were most elaborately and appropriately decorated with the national colors, artistically arranged in many unique and beautiful designs expressive of the welcome of the church to their brothers who had so bravely represented them in the country's hour of need.

After a most appetizing dinner during which hospitality and good cheer abounded, the company adjourned to the audience room for the crowning feature of this delightful occasion. This consisted of speech-making, gift-giving and singing by a male quartette.

Miss Belle Beatty presided during the evening's program and after a few appropriate words of welcome and appreciation for their honored guests, the men of Company C, she introduced Mrs. George A. Lawrence, the President of the Ladies' Society.

Mrs. Lawrence made an address to the men which was replete with patriotic fervor and with serious and convincing argument and utterance regarding the obligations and the high privileges of American Citizenship, she warmly commended the part which they had so nobly played in fulfilling

such obligations and rising to such privileges. After referring to the military maps, charts and tactics which had guided them in their recent campaign, she spoke of the Bible as embodying in its teachings the only sure and safe chart and rule of practice, which if loyally followed would successfully guide one through the great battle of life.

She then presented to the Company, a large and beautiful Bible, handsomely bound in flexible covers, for their desk at the Company's Headquarters.

Needless to say, the address made a deep and serious impression upon the men, and the gift was received with great applause.

Mrs. John H. Finley, the wife of President Finley of Knox College, then addressed them. Her remarks very fittingly and skillfully led up to the presentation of a large and beautiful silk flag for the use of the Company, which was enthusiastically received by them. Mrs. Finley also presented to each one of the men a booklet with red covers, tied with blue ribbon in which was printed upon white paper in blue lettering, a poem written by Dr. Finley, descriptive of their trip to Porto Rico and return.

Captain T. L. McGirr fittingly responded to all these courtesies and accepted the gifts in behalf of the men of Company C.

Following this, Dr. W. Hamilton Spence, the pastor of the church, made the address of the evening, which was characteristically eloquent, inspiring and helpful.

And so this most enjoyable and noteworthy occasion came to a close as a befitting climax to the series of welcoming events which had been accorded the patriotic men of Company C., I. N. G.

In commemoration of the part which Galesburg took in the Spanish-American War our city takes a just pride in a fine old Spanish Cannon, a gift from the U. S. Government to Post 45, G. A. R., through whose efforts, ably supplemented by the personal work of our Congressman George W. Prince, this souvenir was secured from the authorities at Washington.

It was given by the government to Post 45, G. A. R., and was erected by the city upon a site on the east side of our Central Park at the head of Main Street.

This cannon is made of the finest metal and was cast in Spain in 1740. It was, among others, sent across to the island just previous to the outbreak of the war to help in the reinforcement of the fort upon San Juan Hill. When Col. Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders charged up the hill and

captured the fort, thirteen of these guns fell into the hands of the Americans and were sent to Washington as trophies.

The inscription upon it is in ancient Latin, and at the time of its erection in our park the inscription was translated by the late Professor Albert Hurd of Knox College and by Dr. J. V. N. Standish, an accomplished linguist and for more than forty years the President of the Park Board.

Galesburg "A Convention City"

Many patriotic and political rallies, especially during the period of the Civil War, and many state and national conventions have chosen Galesburg as a rallying point because of its importance and influence both as to its advantageous location and as to those great moral and educational forces which make for the well-being of a nation and which this community, in years gone by, has possessed in full measure.

Galesburg Made the County Seat

In the year 1873 the County Seat was removed from Knoxville to Galesburg. This action followed a long controversy during which rival claims for the honor of being the executive center of the county were vigorously supported by opposing factions representing Knoxville and Galesburg. Up to that date the County seat had been located in Knoxville, which, because of its beautiful situation and its honorable record as a community, was eminently worthy of the distinction. But it suffered the disadvantage of remoteness from the more populous sections of the county and from the superior railroad facilities which Galesburg enjoyed because of being an important division station on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road. Moreover Galesburg was more accessible as a distributing center for the products of the rich agricultural areas of the county. All things considered it was in every respect better situated to be the seat of government, and the better judgment of the citizens of the county finally prevailed, the majority voting in favor of the transfer. This decision was of course in every way advantageous to Galesburg, while at the same time it is a matter of regret that the civic prosperity of Knoxville suffered in consequence. The change of location necessitated the building of a new court house, and this was accomplished in the years 1884-86.

A stately, handsome, and well equipped building was erected in the east half of the city park which was donated by the city for that purpose. The business of the county has already outgrown the capacity of this large structure, and plans are maturing for its enlargement and improvement.

Industrial Development

The manufacturing industries of Galesburg had their be-

ginning in the little machine and repair shop of J. P. Frost, one of the colonists of the spring of 1837. His small venture has increased and developed throughout the years and is now known as the Frost Manufacturing Company, which ships the output of its great machine and boiler shops to all parts of the United States and to many foreign lands. Around this have sprung up factories and shops of various kinds suited to commercial and household needs till there are now about 50 manufacturing establishments in our city. The number includes machine, boiler and repair shops, planing mills, flour mills, garment factories, automobile factories, welding works, Coulter Disc works, rug factories, candy and ice cream factories, both wholesale and retail, bottling works, etc., etc.

Galesburg As A Music Center

Galesburg has always been at the fore-front as a musical center. At a very early date in its history it commenced its musical career under the instruction and leadership of Samuel Bacon.

This Prince of Music Masters, sweet singer and skillful violinist, came at regular intervals to give instruction to large classes, or "schools" as they were then called and to give concerts and lead choruses to the delight of enthusiastic pupils and an appreciative community. He was the predecessor of men of no mean reputation in the field of musical leadership. One by one they have had their day and passed on, using their own methods, winning their own honors, and leaving each his own impress upon a large and enthusiastic following.

Knox Conservatory of Music

Last, but by no means least among them is our own Prof. Wm. F. Bentley, who for thirty-three years has been the popular director of the Knox Conservatory of Music and the supporter, promoter and director of the musical activities of Galesburg. Under Dr. Bentley's efficient management the Knox Conservatory of Music has become one of the leading musical institutions of the state and its graduates have become prominent as musical educators and artists all over the United States.

Other Schools of Music

There have recently been established two other schools of music in Galesburg, one in connection with the "School of Three Arts" at Lombard College under the direction of Madame Anna Groff Bryant, and the other "The Maude Alma Main School of Fine Arts," founded and conducted by Miss Main. The success and reputation of all these schools have been greatly enhanced by the able co-operation of an efficient corps of teachers in each department of the different schools.

Especially is this true in the Knox Conservatory of Music,

where John Winter Thompson, Mus. D., head of the Organ and Theory Department, and Miss Blanche M. Boulton, Professor of Pianoforte, have been for a quarter of a century or more Dr. Bentley's loyal colleagues.

And so through the medium of these annals we have brought our favored city adown the "long, long trail" which has been blazed for us by a succession of historic events from the beginning to the present time. It would have been pleasant sometimes to take the more devious route, to discover the hidden trails, to linger by the way-side gathering souvenirs of the past and to revel among the fascinating romances which "half concealed and half revealed" have beckoned to us here and there as alluring possibilities in the pioneer experiences of our colonists and their descendants. But these are forbidden indulgences. The journey has been a pleasant one although the enjoyment has been tinged with regret that many persons places, objects and events which were worthy of remembrance have been passed without mention because of lack of space; and we regretfully leave them to the chroniclers of the future.

With congratulations to all who have in any way contributed to that which has already been achieved, and with a challenge to our city to see to it that the future shall witness still better and greater achievements, we leave her to the enjoyment of her many privileges and unusual opportunities, her churches and colleges, her schools and happy homes, her exceptional musical advantages, her literary and social prestige, her commercial and industrial advancement, her superior facilities for travel and transportation; and all things else that have contributed to the development of Galesburg into a city fitted to be the seat of the legislative and executive activities of our rich and prosperous county of Knox of the great state of Illinois in this her centennial anniversary of A. D. 1918.

HAW CREEK

By Wm. Scott.

In attempting to write the annals of Haw Creek Township, Knox County, Illinois, the writer of this short sketch will be somewhat handicapped as to the early history of the same.

After having served two terms of enlistment in the War of the Rebellion in Ohio organizations, and after having been discharged from said service in June, 1865, came to Illinois in October, same year, and located in Haw Creek Township. Entering school in Hedding College, Abingdon, Illinois, the winter term of 1865, remained in same school (excepting vacations) until the late fall of 1866, when he began District school teaching and continued in that Profession until the ending of the school year, 1878, embarking in the Mercantile business in Gilson, Ill., March 1878; ran a general merchandise business for over forty years.

In order to obtain anything like an accurate knowledge of Haw Creek's early history the writer will have to glean his knowledge from various sources. He will in some instances have to refer to a former history written in 1899 by C. W. McKown, of Gilson, (now deceased).

In attempting to answer the questions of the committee who have this matter under consideration will say that very little is known of the first inhabitants of this Township. I now refer to the Redmen or Indians of the forest and prairies of Illinois. There are evidences in Haw Creek Township that the Redmen at one time roamed over our prairies hunting the game that was plenteous and fishing in our principal river, (the Spoon), which at that time abounded with vast numbers of fine fish.

The population at the present time consists almost wholly of native born inhabitants of Haw Creek. Most of the early settlers came from Ohio. We note from the former history referred to, that the first White settler in Haw Creek was Mrs. Elizabeth Owens, accompanied by her son Parnach Owens, the settlement was made in 1829 on Section 18. In 1834, other settlers came from Ohio and settled in this township. Among those families were John Scott, Zephaniah Scott and Jacob Harshbarger. About the same time also came the following families and located in Haw Creek, these were James Nevitt, Samuel Slocum, David Teel and David Enochs. They were soon followed by Woodford Pierce, David Housh, Joshua Burnett and Lineas Richmond, William Dickerson and others, so that in 1835 there was quite a settlement in Haw Creek, all coming from Southern Ohio, Highland and Jackson counties.

The first white child born in Haw Creek was a son to

James Nevitt and wife, soon after locating in their new home. The first death in the township was that of Eleanor Jarnigan, 1834. First sermon preached by the noted Rev. Peter Cartwright, 1831.

After the settlement of Haw Creek there were no Churches but services were held in the homes of the farmers. The Rev. Peter Cartright, Richard Haney (Uncle Dick) and William Clarke officiated at the services held in the farm houses. The first denomination in the field was the Methodist Episcopal, afterwards followed by the United Brethren in Christ. After the erection of school houses the religious services were held in them. The first regular church built in Haw Creek was Clark's Chapel, Section 17, built in 1864, since discontinued. There are at present three churches in the township, the Methodist in Gilson, built in 1865; the Gilson United Brethren, built in 1866. The value of each church when built was not over \$1,200, but now \$2,500 would not replace them and their furnishings. The other church referred to is a United Brethren located in Section 3, known as Union or Wolfs Chapel, at a value of \$1,500. They are all of them well kept up and in good condition. The present ministers are: Methodist, Rev. E. B. Morton; United Brethren, Rev. Jay A. Smith, each of them live wires.

As to the first school house built in the township, I am not able to say, but I presume it was the log structure erected on the Northwest Quarter of Section 15. The first school in the township was taught by Miss Susan Dempsey in 1836, who afterward became the wife of Booker Pickrel. The school system of Haw Creek is up to that of average of other townships in the county. We have nine districts with that of Gilson, which is a graded school, besides we have the Haw Creek Township High School with three teachers. Classes in this school are regularly graduated after a four years prescribed course by the efficient School Board. None but good and efficient teachers are employed in any of the schools of the Township.

The methods of travel are varied at the present time. But the early methods were principally by wagon and carriage. Before the days of the railroad the farm produce was hauled by wagon to Peoria and Chicago; principally to Peoria, wagons loaded back with groceries and merchandise of various kinds.

The first store in the township was conducted by Edmond Smith at Mechanicsburg, southwest of Gilson three-fourths miles on Section 18. This store was of a general stock. The C. B. & Q. railroad was surveyed and built in 1856. In 1857 the Village of Gilson was surveyed and regularly established on the southeast one-fourth section 7 by Lineas Richmond and James Gilson, after whom the village was named. Ever since

Gilson was established it has been a good trading point for the sale of farm produce, such as all kinds of grains and stock. Gilson at present has a population of 200. Three general stores in the town, all seem to do a good business, one elevator and one lumber yard, one blacksmith shop and one general repair shop, post office and one rural delivery.

The only mill of an early date was a large grist mill on Section 34 on Spoon River, known in 1865 as the Burnett Mill. It did a very fine business when first built but was abandoned about twenty years ago on account of a lack of power for only about six months in the year. There was also a saw mill erected on Haw Creek 2 miles southwest of Gilson which did a very good business for several years.

The organization of the township was effected on April 5, 1853. This organization took place at the Nevitt school house, southwest of Gilson two and one-half miles. The following officers were elected: William M. Clarke, Supervisor, Woodford Pierce, Clerk; Isaac Lott, Assessor; Joseph Harshbarger, Collector; Jacob Wolf, Overseer of the Poor; John S. Linn and Enoc Godfrey, Justices of the Peace; Geo. Pickrel and William Lewis, Constables; Milton Lotts, Allen T. Rambo and Benoni Simpkins, Commissioners of Highways. The present officers follow: C. H. Upp, Supervisor; Clark H. Snow, Assessor; C. L. Dossett, Overseer of Poor; C. H. Upp (by virtue of office) Justice of Peace; Earl Snell, Constable; John Housh and H. L. Connor, Commissioner of Highways, Ben Taylor. With my limited knowledge, prior to 1865, I am unable to give the location of the first farm and how cultivated, but I should judge that the method of cultivation was principally by the one and two-horse cultivators, as a great many of these settlers were from Ohio and there they had to use the one and two horse cultivators, on account of the stumps and roots in the ground. Much improvement has been made in this part of the country in the farming line in the manner of preparing the seed bed before planting or sowing the seed. The farm tractor is just now coming into use in Haw Creek. It may eventually take the place of horses in the extra heavy, hard and hot work.

The homes of the farmers and laboring class are much better furnished of late years than formerly, and I attribute that to the younger generation. The better educated, the more up-to-date they wish to become and when that is uppermost in the mind of the younger class, something is going to happen and that something is to have a home better equipped.

Early pastimes and amusements were as follows: Celebrations, which usually occurred on Holidays; Spelling Schools, Singing schools, Corn huskings, Log rollings and Quilting Bees.

The township at the present time is in a very good and

prosperous condition owing to the extra good crops and the extremely high prices obtained for all kinds of farm commodities. The population of the township, as near as we can estimate it, is 1,080.

The first good farm house built in the township was that of James Nevitt in 1835. First brick house built by Woodford Pierce in 1836 on Section 7, Northeast Quarter. First post office established May 7, 1852, and named by the Government, Haw Creek. The post office was in the general store at Mechanicsburg, run by Edmond Smith. The first postmaster was Joseph Harshbarger and was succeeded by Allen T. Rambo, Sept. 16, 1852. The latter was succeeded by Woodford Pierce in March 17, 1855. On March 5, 1857, the office was removed to Gilson which then was a railroad station. Mechanicsburg then going out of existence as a village.

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the former historian of the township, Mr. C. W. McKown, for my knowledge of the organization of the township, also the first officers of the same and also for the first post office and first postmaster of the township.

I also wish to relate a couple of instances relating to the Rev. William M. Clarke and Rev. Richard Haney, the founders of Methodism in Haw Creek. In the early settlement of Knox County and Haw Creek the Rev. William M. Clarke was appointed by the Conference to the Knoxville Circuit, which consisted at that time of three or more appointments. At that time he was living on his farm, just east of the old Gilson Camp Grounds, where the Methodist church held their Camp Meetings for so many years. After he had taken charge of the Knoxville Circuit he called the official Board together and contracted with them for his year's salary, which was not an overly large one. The Board agreed to pay his salary regularly as he had a large family to support and the salary would be needed to support them. He had preached for them a part of the year and the good brothers had failed on their part of the contract. He called the Board together and stated to them that he was in need of the money for the support of his family. They made him a good promise, but failed to carry it out, so Uncle Billy, as he was familiarly called, called the official Board together again. He said to them: "Brethren, you have not treated me right in the matter of filling your obligation to me in the matter of salary. I have endeavored to do my best for you in the matter of Pastorial work, but you have utterly failed to keep your part of the contract, so, I am going to tell you something which is not very pleasant for me, 'You can all go to the devil and I will go back to the farm;'" and he went.

I now wish to relate an incident in which Uncle Dick Haney

was interested. He was preaching at a farm house in the early settlement of Haw Creek and in those days window glass was a very scarce article. In the absence of glass a white greased paper was tacked to a frame and used as a sash in the window frame. Uncle Dick said at this farm house he was delivering his sermon in his best possible manner, he had taken his position close to the windows supplied with the greased paper. When he was at his best in the discourse he heard a commotion on the outside of the house, which proved to be a fracas between the cat and dog belonging to the premises. He said he was doing his best in the way of the delivery of his discourse, when the noise increased all at once, pussy to escape the dog sprung directly through the greased paper in the window alighting directly in front of Uncle Dick. Afterwards in speaking about the incident he said it was always a question in his mind what he should call it; whether a Dogmatical or a Categorical problem.

At another time of his preaching at a farm house, and the good sister of the house had no place to keep her well filled milk crocks, only on a bench placed at one end of the room, in which the services were being held. Uncle Dick said he took his position close to the milk bench, he stated when he warmed up in his sermon and using all the oratory he could command, making all the gestures that was possible for him to make and giving it all the force and power he could, at this point he noticed a peculiar sensation in one of his lower limbs. When he cast his eyes in that direction, he discovered that his coat tail had completely skimmed one of the good sister's crocks of milk and the cream was running down the calves of his legs and filling his shoes.

HENDERSON TOWNSHIP

By Susan McMurtry

It is meet and seemly that some permanent record be placed in the archives of the Centennial History of Illinois of the citizens of Henderson, who have been identified with the early history of Knox county and been prominent in the upholding of the commonwealth that those who came after them may know to whom they are indebted for the benefits they now enjoy. We are all debtors to the honored and useful lives of those brave pioneers, who blazed and prepared the way for coming generations.

The distinct personality of this locality in the history of our state and county arouses in us a feeling of pride in our past, because our earliest settlers exercised a great influence that has been a great value to humanity. The future of Knox county and Henderson in no small part lay in the hands of those early pioneers. A future full of hardships but also full of hope.

In writing the early history of this particular locality, one is obliged to ignore much that must naturally come in other parts of this history. We find we have to tell the history of the state or the history of the county, not the history of Henderson township. Take the important figures in the history of this region during the earlier period and you will find they do not belong particularly to Henderson, but to the greater areas of which this place is but a small part.

The question naturally arises, whence came the first settlers? What conditions drove them to face the hardships and privations of the frontier to make new homes.

It has been said that before the railroads emigration moved on parallels of latitude. This was never more clearly illustrated than in the early settlement of Knox county. It is safe to say that the majority of the early settlers were either natives or descendants of natives of Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee. Many of them had ancestors who were also pioneers in these same states. Some came from the eastern states. They were extraordinary people, courageous, hardy, intelligent, honest, industrious, honorable, patriotic and God-fearing. A more self-reliant set of men and women never trod the earth. The immigrants who were to settle Henderson crossed the Ohio river in their covered wagons (prairie schooners), with a jerk line in one hand and a rifle in the other, a few coming by horseback or by foot. Conditions in Kentucky and other southern states drove the small farmer to emigrate.

To us of the later generations who view these fertile fields of grain in all directions and know of the great wealth above

and below the ground, it seems strange there was not a rush of settlers into this region in spite of the natural inference that the land that could not produce trees must be worthless as farm land, which has proved in the end to be the richest possession of our "Prairie State."

When we consider that Daniel Robertson and his brother, Alexander, the first settlers in Henderson township, did not come until 1828, when Illinois had been a state ten years, one naturally asks why it was that a locality full of possibilities was not settled at an earlier date? There were many influences to retard immigration; the actual opening of land offices, the promised land sales, the extinguishing of Indian titles, the limited means of travel, the Indians themselves, and others no less important.

The early settlers of Henderson invariably located in the timber or along its border. This is not so strange when we consider that these pioneers mostly had been brought up in the shelter of the woods. This nearness to the timber was an advantage in many ways. It furnished material for their log houses, fuel for their fireplaces, meat for their food, and shelter from the fierce cold winds in winter, which often caused a great deal of suffering. The first settlers were very fond of hunting and many interesting stories are told of them in quest of wild turkey, prairie chicken and deer.

First Settled

Henderson was the first township in Knox county to be settled by white men. It is well watered by the branches which make up the head waters of Henderson river. Along these branches originally stood one of the finest groves of timber to be found anywhere in Illinois. Here was a favorite place for Indians, who had extensive fields of corn on Sections 23 and 26, south of the village of Henderson. These Indians were friendly and remained till the breaking out of the Black Hawk War, when they left without doing any serious harm.

Alexander and Daniel Robertson, two Scotch brothers, left their father's home in Morgan county, Illinois, and came to Schuyler county, where they remained one year. In February, 1828, they set out, each riding an old mare and carrying a gun and ax, came to Henderson township and settled first on Section 15. Daniel 22, and Alexander 20 years of age and single. Here they built their first log house together. This house stood east of the creek at the top of the hill, a short distance south of the wagon road and was about midway between where is now the Rio Branch of the C., B. & Q. railroad and the State Aid road. The Robertsons lived here several years together, till their land was claimed by a speculator named Baker. During the discussion over the possession of the land Baker

shot at Daniel but missed him. The later went to the cabin for his gun, but was persuaded by his wife to make no further trouble. The Robertsons gave up this land and settled on the southwest corner of Section 11. Here they built their second log house, which stood across the road and northeast of the first, where Daniel lived most of his life. About 1836, Alexander settled and built a log house on Section 2, where he lived till his death in 1853.

During the next spring and summer others came, among them, Jacob Gum, a Baptist minister, who preached the first sermon in 1829, at the residence of his son, John B. Gum, on Section 32. This two-roomed log house was the first county court house. Here the first circuit court was held October 1, 1830. The judge presiding was the Hon. Richard M. Young, afterward United States Senator. Here also the first county election was held, Mr. Gum being elected the first county treasurer.

The son of Zephaniah Gum and grandson of John B. Gum was the first white child born in the county.

Riggs Pennington came about this time, who became one of the most prominent men of northern Illinois. Phillip Hash and Chas. Hansford. These three were the first county commissioners after the actual organization in 1830. Stephen Osborn, the first sheriff; Parnac Owen, the first county surveyor; Alex. Frakes, Major Thomas McKee, Robert and Eaton Nance, who settled on Section 9.

The first death in the county was that of a young man, Philip Nance, which occurred January 9th, 1829, in Henderson township, and was buried on Section 9. Major McKee, who came the fall before, was present at his death and funeral and was instrumental in erecting a suitable stone at his grave. A few years later, the people of the vicinity of Henderson raised money and erected an iron fence around his grave.

The Black Hawk War

The next year, 1829, the brothers, William and James McMurtry and their families, came in November and settled on Section 3, on a quarter bought of Riggs Pennington, paying \$1.25 per acre; but afterward had to repurchase to secure a clear title. It was on their farm on the northeast 40 acres of Section 10, that the entire neighborhood assisted in building a fort, which would protect them from the Indians. Into this the surrounding families before and during the Black Hawk War would often gather. While there were often rumors of Indian uprisings, and the settlers were constantly on the watch for them, they were never molested by them. A company of rangers was organized by Wm. McMurtry, who was their captain, to be ready to pursue the Indians in all directions if

needed. In 1832, James McMurtry, accompanied by F. Freeman and Thomas McKee went to Rock Island for guns to protect the settlers during the Black Hawk War. They secured 100, which were sent down the river as far as Ruthsbury, and from there by teams to his home, where they were distributed to the settlers. He served during the Black Hawk War under Major Butler. The pioneers, Wm. and James McMurtry, were descended from pioneer ancestors. Their grandfather, Captain John McMurtry, was a pioneer in the state of Kentucky, along with Daniel Boone and others. He made the stones and the first mill for grinding corn meal in Kentucky. He was killed fighting the Indians as Captain of Kentucky militia in 1790. William McMurtry became quite an active and prominent politician. He was a firm believer in the principles of the Democratic party and a friend of Stephen A. Douglas. It was largely through him that the history of Henderson is so closely connected with the early history of the county and the state. He was active in the organization of Henderson township, April 5, 1853. In 1832, he was appointed first county commissioner of school lands. This office he held till his resignation in 1840, his chief duty being to sell the school section in each township and later to distribute interest money to the teachers from the school fund. He always took an active interest in the early schools, sold the school lands, invested the money and advanced the educational interests of the county very much. He was keenly awake to public needs, and had an eye to the interests of the people. Thus his name was brought before them as a candidate for office in the state. He was a member of the Legislature during the years 1836-37 and 1838-39; State Senator up to the time he was elected Lieutenant-Governor with Gov. French in 1848. In 1862 he was commissioned Colonel of the 102 Illinois Voluntary Infantry. After serving a short time in Kentucky he resigned on account of ill health and was honorably discharged. The McMurtrys were natives of Kentucky. They lived and died on the farms on which they first settled in 1829.

In 1830, Thomas Furguson, Roundtrees, Goffs, Lewis and Davis with their families came in locating along the south side of the grove. Following them were the Browns, settling along the old "Galena Trail."

Peter Bell, Thomas Maxwell, Squire Reed and James Reynolds also moved in in 1830. During 1831-32 a number of families came. Among these were the Ferrises, who put up a saw mill on Henderson Creek; Rees Jones, who built the first grist mill, in 1830, on Henderson Creek. These mills were great events to the pioneers and they felt now they had all they needed.

Galesburg Colony Came

In 1836 the first of the Galesburg Colony came, locating south of the grove and built up what afterwards became known as Log City, on Section 33. This settlement was only temporary and does not strictly belong to Henderson township, but more to Galesburg where they finally settled.

The first few years the settlers had to go to Rushville for their mail, about 75 miles. Here Alex Osborn was obliged to go for his license to marry Ann Hendricks. This was the first marriage ceremony in Knox county. Philip Hash, the first Justice of the Peace, officiated.

In 1833 the first postoffice in the county was established on Section 32, at the store of John C. Sanburn. Mr. Sanburn held the commission from the government as the first postmaster.

The first school in the county was in Henderson township in 1830. This school was a subscription school taught by Franklin B. Barber in a log shanty near the grove. There was another school opened in 1833 on Section 31, taught by Harmon Brown. The first school district was formed at Log City in 1837, under the management of Wm. McMurtry, the first school commissioner.

The first plow in this township, perhaps in the county, was a wooden one, brought in by Daniel Robertson.

The first pair of lines for driving seen in this section was brought in by Gov. Wm. McMurtry. Having seen them used by a stage driver in Springfield, decided to have a pair. The first Sunday he was home the entire neighborhood spent trying to adjust these lines, but it could not be done till the Governor went back and had another view as to how they worked. Then he saw one check went to the other horse.

Two of the four forts built by the pioneers of Knox county were located in Henderson township. These were to protect them from hostile Indians before, during and after the Black Hawk War. One fort site has recently been located on Section 33, on what was long known as the Peter Franz farm. The other fort was on Section 10 on the land always known as the McMurtry farm. These sites commanded the view in all directions. To this the surrounding families often went, remaining for days and nights.

For a number of years the oldest house in Knox county was about one-half mile north of the village of Henderson. It was a two-roomed log house, built in 1834 by Wm. Riley. Later the oldest house standing was two miles northwest of Galesburg. Of these primitive log houses scarcely a one can be found in the township today. No one remains who can

look to the days when this country was a wilderness, to the time when the foundations for homes were laid. For a number of years, to 1903, the longest continuous resident was Dr. James C. McMurtry, son of Wm., who came with his father's family in 1829, and was less than one year of age.

The First Roads

The first roads were Indian trails. The wild Indian having similar instincts as the buffalo, followed the same trails which led from timber groves to timber groves, always choosing the shortest and best routes. Many of these same trails the first settlers traveled seeking homes, and are public highways today. One of these, the great "Galena Trail," from Peoria, passed through the western part of this township in a northwesterly direction. Traces of this old trail can be seen today. There are evidences that the American army in the Revolutionary War under Col. Montgomery, passed over this same trail through Henderson. Ordered by Gen. George Rogers Clark to follow the Sacs and Foxes to the lake on the Illinois river (Peoria) across the country and attack them on Rock river near the mouth. This he did in 1780. The old Peoria and Rock Island road passes through the township in a northwesterly direction. This was among the first main traveled roads, much of which today is State Aid road.

These pioneers at first lived like one big family. They helped each other build their houses or anything where help was needed. They kept open-house. Strangers were always welcome and cared for. Their first log houses had a puncheon floor, split out of lynn wood, a clap-board door. The clap-boards were lapped over each other from top to bottom to turn the rain. The latch was made of wood, with a string tied to it to lift and lower it in a wooden catch. Their windows were holes in the logs. Their furniture was made by hand and split from logs. The fire-places were made of mud and sticks at first, later of brick. In these rude fire-places they cooked, using long handled "skillets" and in iron pots, and baked in covered "skillets" surrounded with hot coals. Fires were started from flint stone or borrowed from a neighbor. The bedrooms were made in one end of the house by hanging quilts for curtains between the beds. Children slept in "trundle" beds, which were pushed under the larger beds during the day. Their first lights were twisted cloth floated in a saucer of grease. Later candle moulds were obtained and each family made their own candles of tallow.

The first year or two their bread was made of corn grated on a tin grater. Then their grain was prepared for food in a neighbor's mill, a hand mill, made of two stones placed together, the top one being turned back and forth with a lever.

Soon a water mill was started on Henderson Creek by Mr. Jones. Later people went to Milan, where was started a better mill for wheat floor. Often one of two neighbors went for the neighborhood and would fish while their wheat was being ground.

Sugar was made from the sap of the hard maple, which was boiled in large pans in the timber. The "buckets" were wooden troughs to catch the sap. The spiles were made of Sumack, with the pith burned out with a hot iron. Barrels of sugar and molasses were made from this sap. When it would not make these any longer they made the best of vinegar of it. Soap was made from lye, leached from ashes and grease. Starch was made from potatoes.

After the Indian War sheep were brought in and spinning wheels. The women spun and wove the wool into cloth for their clothing. This "homespun" they dyed at first with walnut bark and hulls for brown and oak bark for yellow. For green the yellow was dipped into indigo blue. They raised flax from which their linen was made. Money was scarce, but they needed little money, as there were no markets near. About the first means of obtaining money was from hunting honey of which there was an abundance in the timber. The Robertsons obtained their first money by selling honey at St. Louis. Many interesting stories are told of their bee hunts.

West of the center of Henderson township is located one of the best examples of a community center to be found. At an early date these Swedish people began to come into this township and by hard work and saving were able to purchase land and build themselves homes. Thsi community built a church in 1881. This church was burned and replaced by a more modern one about 1914.

The only village in this township is Henderson, on Section 14. It was laid out June 11, 1835, by Parnach Owen, and incorporated in 1838. In early days it was a flourishing place and there were great expectations for its future. Between 1840 and 1850, over 30 coopers were employed here in making barrels, which were shipped all over the state.

In 1839, the post office here was the largest in the county and previous to the building of the railroad in 1854, Henderson was nearly as important as either Knoxville or Galesburg. Through Gov. McMurtry it was able to exert sufficient influence to secure the insertion of a provision in the railroad incorporation act that the line should pass through the town, but the provision was evaded. The road going to Galesburg, leaving Henderson a few miles to the north. Subsequently, trade being attracted to the railroad stations, the village gradually declined, until little remained. In 1886, the Rio branch of the C.,

B. & Q. railroad was constructed through the village and saved it from complete extinction and some improvements have recently been made.

Note: Miss McMurtry gives Robertson as the name of two early comers to the township. Elsewhere the name appears as Robinson. As Miss McMurtry grew up in the township, her spelling must be accepted as correct.)

INDIAN POINT TOWNSHIP

By Geo. L. Hagan

Every intelligent and patriotic citizen manifests a pardonable pride in the achievements and progress made in this great state during the past century. To understand these and appreciate them fully, a man must know some thing of the history of his town, county and state. The origin of the different races of people, who inhabited this country prior to the coming of the white man, has always been a debatable question. To many there is a striking similarity between the facial features of the Oriental type of mankind and the American Indian. This similarity has lead them to believe that the Indian is of Oriental parentage. Still there are others, who see peculiarities in his physical structure that preclude the American Indian from common parentage with the rest of mankind. In the absence of either history or tradition, archaeologists have advanced many plausible theories relative to the prehistoric races that inhabited this country prior to its discovery in 1492. Discussion of the question of their origin seldom enlightens and frequently confuses. There is, however, one point, upon which all agree, and it is the fact that when Columbus landed on the shores of America, he found the Indians in undisputed possession of the continent.

Early events, affecting this locality, transpired long before Indian Point township, or Knox county, or even the State of Illinois assumed its its present boundary. History records the fact that as early as 1673, the Indians had well established trails running diagonally across Knox county, the oldest, and perhaps the most important of which was the one leading from the Mississippi River near Keokuk, to La Salle on the Illinois River. This trail passed where Abingdon is located. There can be but little doubt that this trail followed the same public highway now entering that city from the southwest and extending in a northeasterly direction. It is believed by many that it is the trail traveled by Father Marquette, a Jesuit missionary, on his occasional visits to the Indians of this section of Illinois in 1673. It is said "History hold in her iron hand no more picturesque story than these trails could reveal were their guarded secrets known."

While the pioneer settlers in Indian Point encountered no Indians, they found many traces of their occupancy. The remains of the wigwams, axes, spears and arrow points, gave evidence that Indian Point was once their "happy hunting ground."

History records the fact that Azel Dorsey came to this township in 1829. To him is given the honor of being the first white man to enter Indian Point for settlement. He came from

Cedar, and remained but a few years. The first permanent settlement in Indian Point was made on Section 16 in 1833, by John B. Latimer, who came with his family from Tennessee. The following year came John H. Lomax and Stephen Howard of Kentucky, John Howard, Isaac and Alexander Latimer and John Crawford. In 1835, Daniel Meek and John Killiam settled in Indian Point. The former purchased the home of Alexander Latimer. This farm lies just east of the Indian Point school, and has for generations been known as "the Meek farm."

Among the list of early settlers in Indian Point, who came shortly after the above were: Silas Roe, Bartley Boydstun, Wm. Stewart, Seth Bellwood, Hugh Lowry, Henderson Hagan, L. A. McKiernan, Chas. Fielder, Geo. Hunt, David and Benjamin South, Wm. Flannagan, Bry and Wm. Edmundson, James Martin, H. Chrisman, Henry and Austin Mattingly, Martin Burke, Joseph Probasco, Robt. Supple, Harrison and Thos. Immel, Dan Ryan, Jacob, Nathan and Zene Bradbury, Jacob Dorman, George and Joseph Wheat, Francis Robey, George and Mortimer Clements.

Owes Much To Pioneers

The present generation owes much to these sturdy pioneers who blazed the way to civilization. With them must be shared the honor for the many blessings we are enjoying today. Their lives were lives of privation, and oftentimes of suffering. They lived not for themselves alone, but were mindful of the happiness of future generations. When we consider the rigors of the long winters on the open prairies, unprotected by trees, the deep snows that often rendered transportation impossible, the great distances to the river markets, the inconvenience of getting medical aid in times of accidents and sickness, the lack of communication between the scattered settlers, their meager stores of food and fuel, we realize then some of the privations and hardships endured by those good people. Notwithstanding all this, they were mainly happy and content. If they raised a surplus of grain or livestock, it was marketed, usually at either Copperas Creek Landing or Peoria, the nearest river markets. The prevailing prices of farm commodities in those early days were not such as to prompt farmers to produce much in excess of his needs. Dressed pork sold in those days at \$2.00 per cwt., half cash and half trade. Corn often sold at 6 cents per bushel. The good mothers then spun, wove and made the garments worn by the family. Contrast conditions then with those of today. This was long before the advent of the railroad. The completion of the Quincy branch of the C., B. & Q. from Galesburg to Quincy, in 1855, gave an impetus to farming and livestock operations in this locality. Since that time land values advanced steadily. At that time the government sold land at

\$1.25 per acre, which today commands from \$300 to \$400 per acre.

The first white child born in Indian Point was Ann Frances Lomax, daughter of John H. and Nancy Lomax, born Sept. 25, 1835. The first death recorded was a Mr. Hibbard, in 1838.

Educational facilities in those pioneer days were very meager. The principal studies were represented by the three R's, readin,' ritin,' rithmetic. The first school house erected in Indian Point was on Section 16, near where the Point school now stands. It was built of logs, with split logs for seats. This was in the year 1837. It was first taught by Dennis Clark, who was afterward elected and served many terms as County Judge of Knox County. He too was an early settler here. The school district comprised all of Indian Point and the eastern part of Warren county. The school year then was only the fall and winter months. Thirty pupils were enrolled the first winter, that of 1837-38. Today very few country pupils have more than two miles to go to reach school. Aside from the country schools there are splendid educational facilities within easy reach of the pupils of Indian Point to complete their education in the high schools, colleges and academies of Knox county.

The Religious Growth

Education and religion usually go hand in hand. They mark the beginning of civilization. In Indian Point there are only two religious bodies, Catholic and Christian. The later has two church organizations, one at Abingdon and the other at St. Augustine.

Since 1836 Catholic services have been held at St. Augustine. The first services were conducted in that year by Father Le Fevre, who afterwards became Bishop of Detroit, Michigan. The first church was built in 1843, and dedicated the following year by Bishop Kenrick of St. Louis. Among the pioneer priests, who held services here were Fathers St. Cyr, Conway, Doyle, Drew, Raho, Brady, Griffith, Kennedy, Edward and Thomas O'Neil, Fitman, Meehan, Albrecht, Larmar and Mangon. In 1863, the present church was erected, and five years later moved to its present location. Father Halpin came in 1873, and was the first resident priest. Since that time the following pastors have resided here: Fathers McMahan, Dalton, Howard, O'Reilly, now auxiliary Bishop of Peoria, Fallihee, Dunne, Scheuren, now of Providence, R. I.; Walsh, Kniery, now of Peoria; Kelley, Markey, now of Loda, Ill. Since October, 1912, the present pastor, Father P. V. Egan, has been carrying on the work inaugurated here more than four score years ago. When completed, the interior decorations of the Catholic church here will eclipse any church decorations, from an artistic standpoint, in the state, outside of cities. The present

membership is about 400.

The first Protestant services held in Indian Point, of which there is any record, were conducted by Rev. John Crawford, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, at the home of John Howard in 1848. The Methodists effected an organization at the Pleasant Valley School, under the leadership of Rev. Williams. This was in the Sixties. Services were held occasionally, but the organization did not continue long in Indian Point. The Christian church was first organized at Abingdon in 1840, by Hiram Smith and Richard Johnston. The first church was erected in 1849 at a cost of \$1,000.00. The present church edifice is a beautiful brick veneered structure. The interior decorations are artistic and in keeping with the attractive appearance of the exterior. The present pastor, Dr. A. M. Hale, is very popular with his people, whom he has served many years. He is a booster for any worthy cause. The present membership is about 300. At St. Augustine, the Christian church organization was effected in 1868. The number of charter members was 104, of whom only four are living, namely, Dr. P. Harrod, of Avon; J. E. Edmundson of Houston, Texas; Nathan Harrod and L. B. Harrod, of Galesburg. The first services were conducted here by Rev. Miller. In 1874, Rev. J. A. Seaton held a revival here, and the membership was increased to 148. The present membership is about 100. In 1870, the church was erected. Among the resident pastors of the church were: Revs. Seaton, Kincaid, Stevens, Dillard and Hiett. The following ministers served here at various times since the organization of the church: Revs. Joseph Royal, J. S. Gash, F. M. Bruner, Knox P. Taylor, W. B. Foster, John Hankins, M. Jones, W. Branch, W. J. Burner, Fred E. Hagan, S. M. Thomas, H. G. Bennett, N. L. Collins, D. Shanklin, Rev. Keefer, Davis, Brannie and Cook.

Its Name.

Indian Point took its name from a body of timber extending from Cedar Fork to Section 16. Along the edge of this timber was a favorite camping ground of the Indians, the remains of whose camps were extant long after settlement by the whites. This, coupled with the fact that many axes, spears and arrow-points were found here, gave rise to the name of Indian Point. By this name of "Indian Point" the township was christened on Monday, January 14, 1850, when the township organization was perfected. Daniel Meek was elected the first supervisor in 1853. The first meeting of the Supervisors was held on April 5, 1853, at Knoxville, then the county seat of Knox county.

At the present time Indian Point has the following officials: Willard Tinkham, supervisor; W. H. Clark, town clerk; Geo. L. Hagan, assessor; I. T. Perry, single highway commis-

sioner; W. L. Mills, K. R. Marks and A. C. Fielder, school trustees; W. M. Clark and S. Gray, Justices of the Peace, and S. D. Lomax, constable.

About St. Augustine

St. Augustine is the only municipality lying wholly within the boundaries of Indian Point. It is the oldest town in this section of Illinois. It was originally laid out a half mile south of its present location by Henry and Austin Mattingly on May 6, 1835. The early settlers who located here were principally from Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. For twenty years business was transacted where the village was originally laid out. Upon the completion of the C., B. & Q. Railroad from Galesburg to Quincy in 1855, the village was moved to the present site, on account of the improved railroad facilities. Business naturally drifted to the new location. The former location is now known as "Old Town." Sebastian Pike was the first merchant, Isaac Rubart, the first postmaster. Dr. A. Baldwin, besides being the first physician, was also the first agent for the railroad company. Among the pioneer merchants were Clements & Son, Thos. Terry, Hall & Carbon. Thos. Blake was the first blacksmith. Clements & Smith owned and operated the first lumber yard in 1857. J. G. Gallett and P. H. Smith built the first elevator in 1857. Ten years later the building and contents burned. The only grist mill ever built in Indian Point was erected by Craighton & Ogden at St. Augustine in 1857. Besides making flour and meal, a distillery was run in connection. A few years later, a wool-carding machine was installed. This machine was operated by Henry Livers. During the spring of 1879 the mill and contents burned. While St. Augustine has had several fires, the most disastrous from a business standpoint, was that of April 30, 1897. The fire had had its origin in a vacant building. It swept all the business buildings on the north side of Sixth street and left but three on the south side of the street. Buildings of a more substantial nature have since been erected. In April, 1911, the Catholic parsonage burned. The fire was discovered at midnight. It had gained such headway that nothing could be saved. Miss Elizabeth McKeon, the house-keeper, was alone at the time and lost her life.

The merchants of St. Augustine are an energetic lot of business men, who by close application to business, have turned the tide of trade their way. Among them are Mills & Sons, Harrod & Fielder, James Tanney, S. H. Ryan, Miss Kate Jennings and Neice & Co. In 1902, the Bank of St. Augustine was chartered and began business the following year. Since that time the business of St. Augustine has more than doubled. This being an agricultural community any enterprise to succeed must have the patronage and support of the farmers.

Much of the success achieved is attributable to them. Geo. L. Hagan, Assistant Cashier of the bank, was born and raised on an Indian Point farm, and is familiar with the likes and dislikes of the farmers. He knows that they appreciate courtesies extended them in business. For this reason, he serves them from 6 a. m. to 9 p. m.

Saloons had a long lease of life in St. Augustine. This had a tendency to drive the better element of trade away from town. However, in 1908 "John Barleycorn" was voted out for all time to come. Since that time many new residences have been erected, and an improvement in business has been very noticeable. Any history of St. Augustine, without mention of the trade boosters, would be incomplete. For the past ten years, T. J. Sailer, Walter Clark, Sherman Babbitt and later on G. L. Smith, have been instrumental boosting the business interests of St. Augustine. These gentlemen are extensive farmers, buyers of livestock and grain, feeders and shippers. Frequently these gentlemen handle 12 to 15 carloads of livestock per week. They also make a good market for all the surplus corn and hay of this community.

Since 1903, the St. Augustine Eagle has kept the village in the limelight, and has given it a prestige that it never enjoyed before. It is published by Karl R. Haggenjos, and has for its local editor Geo. L. Hagan.

The City of Abingdon

This beautiful city enjoys many natural advantages, which tend to make it an ideal location for a city. It is surrounded by broad and fertile prairies, which have contributed much toward its prosperity. As only a small portion of the city lies within the boundaries of Indian Point, it is my purpose to write only of the institutions and enterprises located in this part of the city, leaving the major portion of the city to the writer of the Annals for Cedar Township. In May, 1846, "South Abingdon," as this part of the city was formerly called, was laid out by Frederick Snyder. At that time it contained only two and one-half blocks. The first school house was a frame structure, 20 by 40 feet, and contained but one room. Later the building proved too small and several additions were added. It stood a few rods south of the present Washington school, which was built in 1888. In 1853, P. H. Murphy opened an academy in a frame building. For two years he lectured among his people, and infused into them much of his own zeal and wishes, to such an extent that they were ready to give his academy the rank of a college and erect the necessary buildings. A plain three-story brick building was erected, in which the college work was inaugurated in 1855. Mr. Murphy became its first president. Ill health forced him to resign the position

in April, 1860, and he died the following August. He was succeeded by J. W. Butler, who was elected in January, 1861. President Butler served until 1874. Dissensions broke out among the faculty a few years prior to this time, which had a telling effect upon the influence and power the institution formerly wielded. It was the beginning of the end. The college building stood vacant many years, and was finally razed in 1917, to make room for the new Community High School, which was erected at a cost of near \$75,000.

Foremost among the factories of this part of the city is the Abingdon Sanitary Mfg. Co. This enterprise was organized under the law of State of Illinois in August 1908. Prominent among the early promoters were: James Simpson, Dr. Bradway, Orion Latimer, G. A. Shipplett, G. K. Slough, P. H. Maloney and others. The first buildings erected were thought to be sufficiently commodious to serve the wants of the company for years. The popularity gained by the output of the factory was such that the company was forced to make several additions to the original plant. They make not only plumbers' earthenware, but many vitreous china specialties. At the present time the company employs 130 men, and the annual production amounts to near a million dollars. While much of the raw material is obtained from the states of Maine, Delaware, New Jersey, Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, great quantities are imported from England. The products are shipped to every nook and corner of the Union, and many shipments are exported to South America and Australia. J. E. Slater is president of the company.

Another factory that is rapidly forging to the front, is the Abingdon Milling and Cattle Feeding Co. On October 24, 1913, the company was incorporated under the laws of Illinois, and the manufacture of feed was begun in May, 1914. The early promoters of this enterprise were I. L. Reynolds, of Clinton, Iowa; Roy A. Johnson, of Taylorville, Ill.; D. E. Kincaid, of Greenfield, Ill.; Carl S. Burnside, of Galesburg; L. H. Robertson, E. I. Blevins and S. H. Whiteneck of Abingdon. The feeds manufactured are "Malasso" for cattle and "Jumbo" hog feed. The raw material entering these products are oil meal, tankage, cotton seed meal, bran, hard-wood charcoal, corn, flax seed products and Cuban cane molasses. The bulk of the small grain is bought at Minneapolis, the bran and corn in Central Illinois, the charcoal in the State of New York, and the molasses in Cuba. The products of this mill have grown in favor with feeders all over the corn belt. Shipments have been made to the Pacific coast. The demand for the products has steadily increased until many thousand tons are manufactured and shipped annually. The present board of directors are: L. H. Robertson, E. I. Blevins, S. H. Whiteneck, L. M. Fralich of

Abingdon, and W. H. Gridley of Kirkwood, Ill. The officers are: L. H. Robertson, president; C. B. Gaddis of Avon, vice-president; L. M. Fralich, secretary, and S. H. Whitneck, treasurer.

On March 8, 1882, the Abingdon Argus was launched by its present efficient and talented editor, Hon. W. H. Clark. For near forty years he has been untiring in his efforts to make the Argus a truly representative weekly newspaper. He is regarded as an exceptional writer.

In reviewing what we are pleased to call the "Pioneer Days," we must not lose sight of the fact that those good old-fashioned people had their sports and pleasures, as well as their privations and hardships. For the men were the wolf hunts, log rollings, political rallies and horses races. The ladies had their quilting bees, rag tackings and social gatherings. The younger people had their dances, singing and writing schools in the winter time. Later on the spelling schools proved both interesting and profitable. Each school took a particular pride in seeing its pupils win in spelling contests. The literary and debating societies were a source of pleasure and profit in their day.

It may be interesting to know that the biggest snow storm that ever visited this county was during the winter of 1830-31. It continued to fall for several days, and measured four feet deep on the level. In many places the drifts were twenty feet high. It lay on the ground for months. Another heavy snow fell during the winter of 1863-64. It drifted badly, and it was not an unusual sight to see teams and sleds driven over hedges and fences.

The following are still living in this community, who were here prior to 1850, Hon. W. H. Clark, T. H. Roe, Miss Delia Bellwood, of Abingdon, Mrs. Leah South, Mrs. L. D. Jennings, Wm. South and wife and Luke Filder. Those who have spent three score year or more here are: Jas. W. Cox, J. E. Cox, J. E. and W. F. Robertson, J. W. Lomax of Abingdon, David and George South, Mrs. Laura Edmundson, Mrs. T. B. Bourn, Miss Josie Edmundson, Mrs. C. H. Mason, Geo. L. and Albert Hagan and Mrs. Luke Fielder.

The future historian of Indian Point may look back to our times with the interest that we now view what we are pleased to call pioneer days. If our efforts in writing the Annals of Indian Point at the present time prove helpful to him, we feel that our work has not been in vain.

Grateful acknowledgement is hereby made to T. H. Roe, Hon. W. H. Clark, L. M. Fralich and J. E. Slater for valuable assistance rendered in compiling these annals.

KNOX TOWNSHIP**By O. L. Campbell**

Knox township, Knox county, Illinois, goes to par in this, the year of our Lord, 1919. In the early days of a century ago, as was mete and proper, counties and towns were named after famous generals of the wars of preceding years, and Knox county, Knox township and Knoxville have always pointed with pride to the brave General Henry Knox, a soldier of the war of the revolution, who commanded the storming party at the battle of Stony Point. After a major general and Washington's secretary of state this garden of Eden was named. "For there was nothing base or small, or craven, in his soul's broad plan." In his second annual message to the House of Representatives, November 6, 1818, President Monroe laid before that body for their advice and consent the several treaties which had been made with the twenty-five tribes of Indians. By reference to the journal of commissioners it appeared that George and Levi Calbert had bargained and sold to the United States the reservations made to them by the treaty of 1816, and that a deed of trust had been made by them to James Jackson of Nashville, Tennessee. He therefore suggested that in case the Chickasaw treaty was approved by the senate the propriety of providing for the payment of the sum stipulated to be given to them for their reservation. The land upon which Knox county was located was, therefore, ceded to the United States, August 30th, 1819, just a hundred years ago. The exact location of the township is number eleven north of range two east and is marked by the C., B. & Q. railway survey as being the highest point of land and almost equi-distant between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. According to the state records, Knoxville is the tenth town incorporated in the State of Illinois. The land is a rich, alluvial soil, being thoroughly drained on the south by Haw Creek and on the north by Court Creek. It was on this high point that the Indians and many friendly tribes, passing through from Peoria Lake to the Mississippi River, found a pleasant home, and there are many evidences that this point was their headquarters for many years. On the road which led north from Hebard street, recently closed, many arrow heads and chips of flint were found. The early settlers found a cleared plot of ground about a half mile north of town showing evidences of having been used for raising crops. Surrounding this field was a dense timber of white and black oak trees of immense size, growing so closely together that the sun could scarcely shine through the leaves. But closer and on the border of the clearing, was an abundance of wild fruit, including strawberries, raspberries and blackberries, while immense wild cherry, red and black haw trees bore fruit of most excellent quality and in great abundance. So carefully had this

fruit been cultivated that even as late as 1860 fruit of rare quality and unlimited quantity was gathered by the white people.

Old Captain Stevens, a retired naval officer, who made his home in Knoxville, organized a cavalry company of young men of this community and it was on this spot of land that the company was drilled. When the boys were sufficiently skilled in military tactics, P. D. Rogers, for many years proprietor of the old Hebard House, was elected captain and they were ready to defend the people from incursions of all foes. Another company, with Captain Hale of the United States regular army, as drill master, was organized about the year 1855, and with their old muzzle-loading guns, they were so proficient that when the call to arms came in 1861, Knoxville was among the first to respond to the call by Lincoln for an army of defense. A little later a company of Zouaves was organized, but the calls for recruits were then so frequent that its members soon enlisted for "three years or during the war." At this time Knoxville was the county seat and this probably accounts for the fact that the town is credited with sending 547 soldiers to the front during the War of the Rebellion. When the call came for volunteers for the war with Spain, 29 Knox township boys responded. During the late World War, 132 responded from this township to fight for "freedom for all, forever."

It was in Knox township that the Indians spent their summers and harvested their crops, made their preparations for their annual hunt in the region now known as Wisconsin.

The east part of the State of Illinois in 1790 and the larger part of Indiana was once named Knox county, but by a change in boundaries, Knox was joined to Fulton county.

Knoxville was a stopping place and trading point for the Indians who lived in or traded through this locality 75 and more years ago. Sam McFarland, who lived in Chestnut township, tells of coming to Knoxville 77 years ago with his father to see a tribe of Indians pass through this place, it being the only town of importance between the two rivers. The Black Hawk Indians were in the habit of coming down from Rock Island with a supply of beaded moccasins and other specimens of their work to sell to the visitors here. Where less than a century ago wolves and deer roamed in the wild country, now thousands of sleek cattle browse on the rich pastures.

Early Settlers

The first child born in Knox township was Grace Hansford, whose married name was Shock. She was the daughter of Dr. Charles Hansford, our first physician, and she was born in 1834. E. T. Eads, a son of John Eads, was the first boy born in this city and he first saw the light of day in 1835.

Harvey Montgomery, who is now living on the spot where he was born, is the oldest child in the township, and has probably lived longer in the county than any other person now alive. The date of his birth is 1834. He is the largest land owner in the town, having more than 1,200 acres upon which he pays taxes. Jacob Gum came here from Menard county in 1827. He was the first student of the first school taught in the county. The first couple married here was Alexander Osborne and Ann Hendricks, who were united in the hold bonds of matrimony July 1, 1829.

Our first postoffice was established in 1831, and John G. Sanburn was our first postmaster. The first observance of Independence Day was in what is now known as Gilbert's Park on July 4, 1836, and Hon. James Knox was the orator of the day. The display of fireworks was on the prairie north of the Knoxville Old Ladies' Home. Balls of candle wicking were soaked in what was then known as coal oil and they were lighted and thrown from one side of the lawn to the other. When the balls began to unravel and streams of fire were seen flying from one to the other.

The first meeting of the board of supervisors was in Knoxville in 1853. The first session of the circuit court was held October 1, 1830, Judge Richard M. Young, presiding. The first jail was built in 1832 at a cost of \$250, J. G. Sanburn being the builder and contractor.

The first men tried for murder in the county was John Root, a Henry county man. John M. Osborn was the only man ever hung in Knox county, suffering the death penalty for the murder of Adelia M. Matthews, at Yates City, August 5, 1872.

Our first hotel was built on the corner of the public square and West Main street and was owned and kept by William Newman. R. L. Hannaman was Knox township's first lawyer, coming here in 1831. The first court house was built in 1831, at a cost of \$393.43. Our first alms house was built in 1856. The Old Settlers' association was orgnized in Knoxville in 1867. The Knox County Agricultural Board was organized in 1851.

Our first county clerk, John G. Sanburn, served from 1830 to 1837. The First National Bank has been in existence since 1865.

The first mayor of Knoxville was James Price. Knoxville has long been an educational center. Ewing Female University was established in 1859, and St. Mary's school has been in exsistence since ever since. There are many interesting stories of people of the early days. Daniel Fuqua came to this place in 1830—the year of the big snow, when the snow was three feet deep on the level and all roads were badly drifted.

Uncle Dick Haney, an old-time Methodist minister, tells of a sight which he witnessed in the early days, when he went into a cabin and saw there a woman running a spinning wheel with one foot, rocking a cradle with the other, her hands meanwhile being engaged, one in churning, the other holding the flax as it was made into yarn. To some this story seems like a fable, but the truth of the statement was vouched for by others present, the lady being none other than the wife of Uncle Daniel Fuqua, who, in a reminiscent way, related to the old settlers' secretary that he came to Knox county May 2, 1830, landing at Henderson Grove, coming from Kentucky with oxen and horses, and lived in an old log cabin the first six months. He took possession of a small clearing of about seven acres and raised a crop of corn. It made about 50 bushels to the acre and it was all that was needed for the family use. He took a land claim in the fall and built a double log house on the land. In those days there was no need of fraternal organizations, for as soon as a newcomer arrived, provisions were prepared and for miles around they assembled to give what was usually a very home-sick family a hearty welcome to the new home. At this time there was not a town in Knox county, but shortly afterwards the house of John Gum was used in which to transact business.

In 1831 Knoxville was laid out and the court house was established in a log cabin, the only houses then known. In the fall of 1830 he broke up five acres of land, sowed wheat and raised 250 bushels. Horses trampled out the grain and a sheet was the fanning mill. This was the winter of the big snow, three feet deep on the level. This made traveling almost impossible, but with plenty of corn and an abundance of wild game, such as deer, squirrels, wild turkeys and chickens they lived in what would now be considered the most profligate luxury. The tediousness of life was relieved by going to mill. There was a good water mill at Rock Island, about 60 miles away, another on Spoon River, in Fulton county, a third in Stark county and still another in Warren county. The time spent in these long travels was not considered lost, for this was their only opportunity to get a glimpse of the outside world. Human nature, then, as now, ever sought companionship.

The first ripple in the quiet life of those early inhabitants was the breaking out in 1831 of the Black Hawk War. The Indians were feared and dreaded, and to protect the families Fort Gum was built near Henderson. After a short time their fears were allayed and they returned to their homes. In 1832 block houses were built in different parts of the county and a company was enlisted. Looms were seen in almost every cabin, and until sheep could be reared, the clothing was all of flax and cotton. They made a virtue of necessity and lived within

themselves, for money was a scarce article in 1830. Everything was barter and trade. What little money they had was used to pay taxes. Each of the few first families brought with them a few cooking implements, but soon the young people began to mate, and then the houses that enjoyed two cooking implements was fortunate, indeed, for then they could divide with the young people. There being no stoves, fire places were used to cook over, the kettle hanging from a crane and the hoe cake taking on that delicious toothsome brown while reposing in depths of hot ashes. "How dear to my heart," said the old gentleman, as he waxed into a reminiscent mood, "is the memory of my first attempts at founding a home. I had attained the mature age of 19 years and my dear wife of blessed memory was a demure maiden of almost 16, the most beautiful woman and the best the Lord had ever made, whose life of love and constancy continued through 52 short but happy years. With what happy expectation I watched her boil water for coffee in an old cast iron skillet, which was then used to fry the venison, which was kept warm on the cover, while the same faithful utensil did triple duty on baking our bread. Our daughters have a local reputation as good cooks, it is true, but none of them have been able to furnish me a feast so delectable and satisfying as was this, the first repast eaten with thankfulness and joy under vine and fig tree.

Our first furniture was indeed crude, but tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep, was just as refreshing upon a bed of clapboards, held in position by poles inserted in holes in the logs of our 14x16 cabin. A clapboard table was a luxury, the making and using of which was enjoyed and stools and benches served instead of the present divans and upholstered rockers.

"There were no churches in those days, but occasional services were enjoyed at a centrally located cabin, where all seemed to be fervent in the worship of the Lord, and who shall blame us if, as now the case, these occasions were often used to form acquaintances which often resulted in happy alliance? Matches are made in heaven, it is said; I know there were heavenly matches made in the old log cabins in those days."

Politics in Knoxville were always of the independent kind. While the Republicans usually have a plurality of about 200 when general elections were held, in spite of the fact that in the county the Democratic vote only varied 29 in five years, and the Republican vote only 49, a Democrat has represented Knox township more terms on the board of supervisors than have Republicans.

Knoxville has always been considered the center of agricultural industry. She looks down upon a century of achievement with a pride that is little short of devotion, and having

given to the world such men as Judge Craig, of the Illinois Supreme court; Hon. James Knox and Hon. J. H. Lewis to the halls of the nation's congress; Hon. R. W. Miles, Hon. P. H. Sanford, Julius Manning and Henry J. Runkle to grace the halls of Illinois legislature, she feels that she has done her full share in furnishing men and names by which this great commonwealth has taken its high place upon the topmost round.

(Note: Mr. Campbell gives the date of the laying out of Knoxville as 1831, instead of the earlier date, given in the county histories.

LYNN TOWNSHIP

From Sketch of J. A. Beals

The northwest township of Knox county is and will be, because of its location and environment, a township of farms. In the early days some effort was made to attract the merchant and mechanic to a point on the south line, called Centerville (afterward platted as Milroy), but it failed of success, and there has never been a postoffice, a church building or a village within the limits of Lynn.

Great is the contrast between the landscape of today, dotted with well-improved farms, with their commodious dwellings and barns, and that of 1828, when Michael Fraker, with his family, came to Section 23, to find the tract of land he had purchased in Kentucky in the possession and occupancy of the Indians. The braves were away hunting, having left only the old men, women and children to contest his claim. So the white man made himself at home. But the returning hunters disputed his title, claiming that theirs came from the Indian God and was long prior to that of the new settler. Mr. Fraker thought diplomacy was better than valor. He was adroit; he had tact and genius, and was kind and helpful. He was a blacksmith, and could mend their guns. They took him to their hearts, and helped him build his cabin, but could see no necessity for his making tight joints between the logs. But his trust in his new-found friends was not wholly without reservation—bullets had a better chance where the cracks were large. They finally left him their wigwams and council house, and made new homes at Indian Creek, seven miles east, returning yearly as friends at the sugar season. A granddaughter of Mr. Fraker says she has heard her grandmother say that the only white women she saw for four years were those of her own family, and those who came with them. A fair-sized band of Indians lived and roamed from Spoon River to the Mississippi, their trails being distinctly perceptible long after they had left the country. A clear, flowing spring on the east side of Fraker's Grove had trails from all directions centering there. Some of the early settlers long afterward remembered the friendly visits of the Chief Shaubena after the Black Hawk War. Mr. Fraker was a middle aged man when he came from Kentucky. He buried two wives and was living with his third, and was the father of twenty-four children.

George Fitch, a son-in-law of Mr. Fraker, settled near by soon after the Frakers, and was the first school teacher and Justice of the Peace in the settlement. His son, Luther, is reported to have been the first white child born here. The first marriage was that of William Hitchcock and Julia Fraker. John Essex was the first settler on Walnut Creek, in 1830.

His wife was the daughter of Jacob Cress, who, with his family, settled on Section 24, in 1831. These were the only persons living in Lynn before the Black Hawk War. During that struggle they went to Forts Clark and Henderson for safety.

About 1834, William Dunbar bought the improvements of one of the Frakers on a portion of Section 13, and entered the land, going to Galena by wagon, with two yoke of oxen, to do so. He came from Kentucky, and, being a hatter by trade, burnished fur hats to the neighborhood, peddling them on horseback. Mrs. Theodore Hurd says that when she, a girl of twelve years, came here with her father (Luther Driscoll) in 1836) they found twelve families here, settlement being known as Fraker's Grove; not all of it in Lynn, however, as the east township line ran through the middle of it.

In 1836, on Walnut Creek there were only John Lafferty, on Section 36; the Montgomery boys, on Section 35; Samuel Albro (who was a soldier of the War of 1812 and settled on land patented to him for his military service), on Section 34; John Essex and the Talors, south of the creek near Centerville; and Hugh and Barney Frail, on Section 31. Mrs. Hugh Frail was the pioneer sister of the Cravers and the Collinsons, who followed, from time to time, settling that corner of the township. By 1838 the population had increased considerably. Jonathan Gibbs came then, and purchased the Montgomery property on Section 35, where he lived until his death. He was always a leading man in the township, a Justice for twenty-five years and Supervisor for half that period. About this time also came Elison Annis, who settled on land patented to him for service in the War of 1812; Solomon Brooks, John Sisson, Ralph Hurley and Elder Shaw, all from Ohio, and originally from Maine. They were old neighbors, and were members of the Free Will Baptist Church. Soon after coming they organized the Walnut Creek Baptist Church. Elder Shaw and Luther Driscoll for years acting as pastors. It is now extinct.

Peter Hagar, Simeon Collinson, the Sniders and Edward Selon were early. Mr. Selon had been mate on an ocean vessel and in one of his last voyages across the ocean the Charles family were passengers on his ship. One of them he soon after married. Another daughter is Mrs. Ira Reed, of this township and Mr. Charles, of Round Grove, Henry County, who was the first man married on the Stark county side of the Fraker settlement, is a member of the same family. In 1836, there was a rather large immigration from Goshen, Connecticut, for which Goshen township in Stark county was named. Captain Gere and William and Ira Reed were among these settlers. In 1840, came a considerable number of Mormons, but most of the latter remained only a short time.

The first tavern opened was that of Mr. Dunbar, who so used his own home, but in 1846, Nathan Barlow opened the "Traveler's Home," on Section 24. It was on the Chicago trail and the stage road, and hence afforded accommodations much needed at the time.

Population increased slowly until the railroad was projected. That was the ending of the old, and the beginning of the new era in the history of Lynn. J. A. Beal's relation to the township began in this transition period. Proximity to the railroad influenced his selection of a small piece of land for a future home, on the then unbroken prairie. The following spring his wedding trip from the home in Vermont was begun by rail, and finished by stage at Victoria. The ending was a little analogous to the overturning of the old by the new. It was a frosty March morning when the stage stopped at Victoria, with two newly wedded couples, the destination of one of which was Galesburg. The wife whose journey had ended and the husband who had yet to reach Galesburg both stepped out. The driver had dropped the reins and was at the boot, removing the baggage. The horses, impatient with cold and excited by their drive, suddenly started on the run and made a short turn to the Reynolds barn. In a moment's time the startled travelers were standing on their heads (to judge from the way they felt and looked afterwards) inside the coach. The shock was but for a moment, though the impression was that they were being dragged, and that something was yet to happen; the side door was above them and open; the hind wheel was revolving; and the head of the young wife was soon at the opening inquiring if "we were hurt in there." The stage had uncoupled in the overturn, and three horses had dragged the fourth and the front wheels to the barn.

The first physician at the Fraker settlement was Dr. Nicols; at Centerville, Dr. Spaulding. Mr. Leek built the first saw mill, in 1837, at Centerville, and later Jonathan Gibbs put up a second. The first log school house, used also for meetings, was built prior to 1836, by volunteer labor, near the home of the Dunbars, in the edge of the grove. Squire Fitch and Maria Lake were the earliest teachers. Later, a school house was built near Fraker's. Dr. Nicols is said to have been one of the first teachers. One of the early pedagogues at the Centerville school was a boy of eighteen, who, in 1863, became General Henderson, and afterward was a member of Congress. Anna Shaw, Betsy Smith and Catherine Annis were early residents, the last named teaching for a time in a log house near the Frails. In 1841, James Jackson was appointed school trustee, and made two districts of the township, which till then had formed but one. There are now 1899, eight frame school houses, worth about nine thousand dollars. None of the schools

is graded, and the aggregate attendance at that time was about one hundred and seventy-five pupils.

Besides regular services provided at Centerville by Revs. Shaw and Driscoll, there were circuit ministers, who had regular appointments to meet the people. Jonathan Hodgson, one of the earliest settlers at the Grove, became a local Methodist preacher. He was a man of influence in the settlement, a Probate Justice while a resident of the State, and a radical anti-slavery man. At the time of the Kansas struggle he cast in his lot with the free-soilers. He became so much interested in the work of Jonas Hedstrom, at Victoria, that he learned enough of the Swedish language to preach to people of that nationality in their own tongue. Edward Selon also became a minister, and Rev. Alba Gross preached as well as farmed, until called to the Baptist Church in Galva in 1857. Though there has never been a church building in the township, the school houses have been freely opened to Sunday schools and religious meetings.

In the presidential election of 1840, the polling place for both Lynn and Walnut Grove was at Centerville; four years later at the school house near the Frails', Squire Ward being one of those in charge. The practice of betting on elections dates back at least to this time, for James Jackson lost and Dr. Nicols won a pair of trousers on that election.

The grist mill and the market involved much labor and forethought for the early settlers. The first grist which William Dunbar sent away went as far as Tazewell county, and in 1838 the nearest points of shipment were Canton and Moline. After getting to the mill one often had to wait for two weeks for his turn to grind. It can be imagined what a convenience was even the little hand mill of Mr. Fraker.

One winter Jonathan Gibbs contracted to deliver a drove of hogs at Peoria on a certain date. Deep snow came, and in order to fulfill his agreement he made a snow plow, of two planks, set on edge and wedge-shaped. A yoke of oxen was hitched to this and driven ahead, making a path in which the pigs could walk.

Recreation was not entirely neglected. Social life, where there were so few, perhaps meant more than it does now. A wolf hunt took not only the men with their guns, but the women with their kettles, chickens and potatoes, to make chicken pies for the tired hunters. The pies were baked out of doors in twenty-five gallon kettles, set over the coals.

Lynn was organized in 1853, by the election of Jonathan Hodgson, Supervisor; I. S. Smith, Clerk; William A. Reed, Assessor; A. Gross, Collector; Erastus Smith, Overseer of the Poor; S. G. Albro, John Lafferty, and H. A. Grant, Highway Commissioners; John Hodgson and John Gibbs, Justices; John Snider, Constable.

MAQUON TOWNSHIP

From Sketch by Dr. J. L. Knowles

In 1827, ten years subsequent to the original survey of this military tract, William Palmer and family, consisting of his wife and five children, located on the southwest quarter of Section 3, about forty rods southeast of the present limits of Maquon Village. This was doubtless the first white family to settle in Knox county. Mr. Palmer's cabin, made of black hickory poles, stood in the midst of Indian gardens, which were usually deserted by the savages in early spring in favor of better hunting grounds farther west. They returned every fall to remain during the winter, until the year 1832, when, as a result of the Black Hawk War, they took a final leave and that neighborhood knew them no more. Mr. Palmer lived here five or six years, planted an orchard and cultivated the gardens, or patches vacated by the Indians, and, as his cabin stood on the old Galena trail, it afforded a stopping place for the miners going to and from their homes in the southeastern part of the state. A few years later Palmer sold his cabin to Nelson Selby and removed to St. Louis.

The following year Simeon Dolph, the pioneer ferryman of Spoon River, settled on Section 4, building his cabin of logs where the Rathbun house now stands. Owing, however, to a suspicion of his having been implicated in the death of an unknown traveler, he left the community a short time afterwards.

In 1829, Mark Thurman, with his family, settled on Section 25, and one of his daughters, Mrs. Hughs Thurman, of Yates City, is recalled as one of the oldest residents of the county. The next year the families of William Darnell, William Parmer, Thomas Thurman and James Milam settled on Sections 24 and 25. They all came from Highland county, Ohio. Subsequently a small, but regular and ever-increasing stream of settlers took up claims in the township, until in 1837, it was thought a favorable opportunity had arrived for laying out a village, which was called Maquon. This is of Indian origin, signifying spoon. Sapol means river, and as the stream bearing this name assumes somewhat the shape of a spoon from source to mouth, it was called Maquon Sapol, or Spoon River.

This township was one of the chief Indian settlements in the state, and here were congregated families of the Sacs and Foxes and Pottawattomies. Their principal village was located on the present site of Maquon as here the Indian trails centered from all directions in pioneer days. A vast number of Indian relics have been and are still being unearthed in the vicinity, and there are a great many mounds scattered about the neighborhood, the most prominent being the Barbero mound, which

is supposed to have been built by the Aborigines and to contain human remains. Maquon is well drained by Spoon River and the many small tributaries that flow into it, fine timberlands abound throughout the township, and about one-half of the surface is underlaid with an excellent quality of bituminous coal. The township organization was completed in 1853, by the election of James M. Foster as Supervisor; Nathan Barbero, Assessor, and James L. Loman, Collector.

The first school house in the township was built of logs in 1834 on Section 23, or, to locate it more accurately, about eighty rods west of where James Young's dwelling now stands. The first teacher in that building was Benjamin Brock. The next house to be devoted to educational purposes was erected in 1836 or 1837, and was situated about fifty rods south of Bennington. The first school north of Spoon River was conducted by Miss Mary Fink in a shed adjoining the residence of Peter Jones, a father of John Jones, at one time postmaster. The only reading book at that time was the New Testament. It is claimed by some of Miss Fink's pupils, that she could read and write, but could not "cipher." However, notwithstanding this defect in her education, it was said that her labors were most commendable and satisfactory.

The township at first contained the three villages of Maquon, Bennington and Rapatee. Bennington was originally laid out in the center of the precinct in 1836 by Elisha Thurman, but it failed to develop sufficient importance to be called a village, although it was the township's polling place until 1858, when the name was changed to Maquon.

The township is justly proud of its unbounded patriotism some of its residents having taken part in three of the nation's most important wars. Among the early pioneers of the township were Philip Rhodes, John W. Walters and John M. Combs, who were soldiers in the War of 1812. Avery Dalton, who lived to a great old age and who has furnished much information of the early history of Maquon township, and Madison Foster, deceased were members of the Fulton County Rangers in the Black Hawk War. The rifle carried by Mr. Foster while in service is now owned by his son, Albert, and is in a good state of preservation, the old flint lock having been replaced by one of more modern manufacture. A full quota of two hundred and fifty soldiers was furnished during the Civil War, many of whom died on the field of battle fighting for the Union, while others still survive and occasionally live over again one of the most exciting epochs in the history of the country.

The first birth and the first death to occur in the township was that of Rebecca, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thurman, in 1831. The first marriage took place on Christmas, 1834, the

contracting parties being Elisha Thurman and Anna Hall, and the first postmaster was William McGown, who held that position in 1837. The first bridge across Spoon River built in 1839, by Jacob Conser, but it subsequently collapsed by its own weight and was re-built by Mr. Conser the following year. It was located almost directly south of the village of Maquon. The second bridge was erected by Benoni Simpkins, in 1851, a few rods below the site of the present structure, which was built in 1873. The stone work was done by J. L. Burkhalter and John Hall, the wood work by Andy Johnson, and the iron work by Mr. Blakesly, of Ohio. The first distillery in Knox county was situated in Maquon and it furnished the cargo for the first shipment from Galesburg over the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

Maquon township is known for its excellent schools and its history is of large interest.

Note: The positive statement by Dr. Knowles regarding the William Palmer family seems definitely to fix Palmer as the earliest settler in the county.

ONTARIO TOWNSHIP**By Hugh Greig**

While it is true that no well defined Indian trail crossed, in any direction, this township, yet there is indisputable evidence that the Redman was a frequent visitor. The large number of arrow points found in the vicinity of Pilot Knob prove this. The point named is one of the few decided elevations in what is now Knox County and must have been used in times innumerable by the Indians to watch the coming or going of a friend, or to detect the stealthy approach of a dusky enemy.

The area in timber was much too limited to furnish an ideal hunting ground, and no living spring now known could have supplied water for any large number of people. Therefore, Pilot Knob, despite its sightliness, lacked many qualifications which could induce the wanderer to make of it an abiding place.

That there were large numbers of magnificent trees nearby and in every direction, far as the eye could reach, a waving ocean of tallest grasses, proving the unsurpassed richness of the soil was to the Indian a matter of little or no importance.

It is quite probable that more than a century before the white man, as a settler, looked on this rich, rolling prairie land, the explorer on his way from the Illinois to the Mississippi or vice versa, had traversed this region and unquestionably the hunter of a much later date had stood on Pilot and in ever more than fancy "was monarch of all he surveyed."

However, though explorers and hunters have a place in history, a place which bold, venturesome men only can fill, still it is of a truth he and she who are possessors of or possessed by the ideas of the settler, the settler who squats on a definite spot of earth, in some legal form obtains the squatters right to stay and stays. Such is the germ from which in due time Ontario township, Knox County, Illinois, the nation is made.

And if we are to judge the Ontario of today and of all the succeeding tomorrows by the all around make up of the early settlers we may well be thankful and take courage, for were they not all or nearly all the not distant descendants of those who made homes, built schools and churches, fought Indians and brought a thousands smiles to the flinty face of sterile New England, and some in the morning of their manhood assisted in Central New York by arduous labor in transforming a forest into a farm; and though here they found the unbroken prairie a new problem, its solution was simple in comparison; it is true the implements needed were different, the skill to produce them was not yet acquired, but here was the soil, stubborn indeed, but not more so than the settler. With a plow largely of

timber, much prairie was brought under cultivation; corn was planted, not with a planter and check-rower, but with an axe, in due time this gave place to the hoe, and as evolution seems to be a universal law the two-horse planter came and stays.

Besides the corn, all the grains suitable to our soil and climate were sown and rich were the rewards of the husbandman. One crop now never seen in this township was to a limited extent grown, viz., flax, and not only grown, but by skilled and willing hands became by much patient labor a part of the clothing of the almost moneyless early settlers, and in even this year of grace and carnage this writer was shown a considerable sample of linen fabric, the flax from which it had been made grew on Section 31, Ontario township, the home for more than sixty years of G. W. Melton, Mrs. Melton and family, and we have reason to believe that the aforesaid Mrs. Melton with her own hands heckeled, spun and wove the linen cloth to the writer shown.

In the same year but previous to Mr. Melton's arrival, an Alexander Williams had fenced and plowed some twenty acres on the northwest quarter of Section 30 and therefore, so far as known, was the first settler in the township, who evidently intended to remain. However, in 1836 he sold his holdings to I. M. Wetmore. The latter became one of the large landholders in the neighborhood and in all his after years was a most prominent and successful farmer. And though the name, Wetmore, is less common than in the early days it is still with us and with a goodly number of others in a most interesting and pleasant way links the present with the past.

As stated, a goodly number of names familiar in the early days are still here, yet it is very true that a large and increasing percentage of our land owners and tenant farmers can and do speak an alien tongue, but we all know by evidence that cannot be gainsaid that alien speech is no indication of alien sentiment. When we bear in mind that perhaps even a majority of our voters are of foreign birth or are the children of those who hail from the land of Thor, and also recognize the fact that when the R. C., the Y. M. C. A., the K. of C. or other similar agencies let it be known that funds are needed in their ceaseless works of mercy, Ontario has unhesitatingly gone over the top.

In the matter of the various bond selling campaigns, over the top is simply considered the normal thing. This, however, is usually looked on as a fairly good investment; yet take it all in all, the profit, the real profit, that which never tarnishes, is that derived from that giving where nothing is returned in kind. But to speak of the cold facts of history it is a pleasure to mention that while settlers were few, money almost unbelievably scarce, yet the matter of education was not forgotten,

for in 1839, a school house was built on the Northwest Quarter of Section 32. Just in what manner the project was financed we do not know, we only know that the free school system or anything much resembling it had not yet arrived; we have no reason to believe that the curriculum was very varied. All, no doubt, had at times an uncomfortable amount of fresh air; as has been hinted the course of study was somewhat brief, but as was proved on many subsequent occasions, the pupils graduated having, in the words of John Hay, "a middling tight grip on the handful of things they knew."

The first teacher was Sally Ann Belden. The school house for several years was used for religious services, and as denominational lines were not strictly drawn, the preacher of the occasion was not questioned very closely as to his beliefs or unbeliefs on doctrinal matters.

There are now in the township eight rural schools, and while all of them have been to some extent remodeled and greatly improved in general appearance externally and internally, the course of study has become practically uniform; the teachers in a knowledge of teaching methods and in scholarly equipment far surpass those of the so-called good old days of long ago. The Oneida district, officially known as No. 27, is what is known as a graded school. Four teachers are employed and all pupils who successfully pass the eighth grade are eligible to enter the High school. The latter which is conducted in the same building, employs four teachers, each of whom we are glad to say is a graduate of a State University or College in good standing, and pupils honorably finishing the four year course are, provided they have made the best of their opportunities, able to enter any college in our state.

Every girl or boy in this township is in some High school district or in non-High school territory which amounts to the same thing. And yet, sad to say, very many of our young people never pass the eighth grade and some never reach it.

It was a number of years after the establishment of the first school when the township became a political unit, the first Supervisor was Edward Crane; Clerk, W. J. Savage; Assessor, J. Burt; Collector, E. C. Brott; Overseer of the Poor, T. F. P. Wetmore. They also had constables and highway commissioners. It is not all likely that the latter gentlemen were at any time urged to use their influence in favor of hard roads, and if their successors ever have been the good advice given them appears to have been wasted. The justices of the peace were E. Chapman and T. E. Mosher.

The names of the supervisors who until the present time have succeeded Mr. Crane, are as follows: J. Hammond, W. B. LeBaron, J. Hammond, W. B. LeBaron, A. S. Curtis, O. Beadle,

E. Crane, A. S. Curtis, G. L. Stephenson, O. L. Fay, G. E. Fredericks, Hugh Grieg, J. J. Clearwater. There is in the township but one village, Oneida. It was platted in the autumn of 1854 by C. F. Camp, B. T. West and S. V. R. Holmes. It is said that there was no intention on the part of railroad officials to have a station at that point but there were more convincing inducements presented at that time to the needy company chief of which was a gift by C. F. Camp of a plot of ground 500x1,000 feet, on which at this date are the R. R. Station, two grain elevators, various other buildings, and last and greatest is the beauty spot of the village, the little park which is the admiration of all, and as the years come and go the home one and the passing traveler notes the deep green sward, the clumps of shrubbery each in its season blossom tinted, the spreading branches of the elms, maples, chestnuts giving promise of the future forest shade where all can realize it, if they will that our pagan ancestors were not far amiss when they, in the shady woodland's "dim religious light" saw a temple in which they did and we might worship God.

The writer calls Oneida a village, and, as he thinks rightly, so as more befitting our small and sadly diminishing numbers, still it has a city charter, a special charter by the way. However, it is quite doubtful if the makers thereof could today recognize their handiwork. It will interest some to know that Oneida's first school was built in 1855, and its first teacher was Mary Allen West, who later became County Superintendent of Schools, and in such position and in others subsequently filled, she not only raised the standard of scholarship among the teachers but raised the standard of civic righteousness in every community that knew her presence.

The village, as has been noted, has two grain elevators, two banks, the First National and the Anderson State Bank; we have had and now have a weekly paper, the Oneida News, a Masonic lodge with a large membership, a Modern Woodmen Camp, a Mystic Workers Insurance Company, two Woman's Clubs, which are decidedly helpful in a social and literary way. There is also an organization known as the Oneida-Altona Branch of the Knox County Free Kindergarten, and out of this has grown what may be called an auxiliary. The latter is wholly composed of farm wives and daughters, and has its centre in that intangible, but yet very real, something known as Ontario. The meetings are no doubt beneficial in a social way, but it is the sentiment of the heart materialized by the hands that on many, very many occasions brings cheer to the little homeless ones in the Galesburg Kindergarten.

The Church in Ontario Township

In 1840 the Presbyterians planned and in a measure ef-

fecting an organization, which so far as now known in a short time as such disappeared. The same denomination again in 1863, probably as a result of the seed sown in 1840, took the necessary steps to found a church in Oneida, and in 1865 one was erected. The building was completely destroyed by a wind-storm in 1868. A new church was immediately erected and has been added to, the interior remodeled, the congregation is out of debt, has a resident pastor, but the membership is slowly but constantly diminishing.

In that part of Ontario township which is known as Ontario, paranthetically it may be said, that this section has a social center of its own; it is really a community within a community, although not nearly so much so as in the days that are gone; yet it still exists, resembling some of the European States, however small. The Ontarioans are staunch believers in autonomy, and this being so the settlers who favored the congregational system of church management came together in 1848 and discussed the feasibility of organizing a church of this denomination, and in 1852 the church which is still in existence, was erected; there has been no resident pastor for a number of years and though preaching services are occasionally held it would seem to an unbiased onlooker that the end of the Ontario Congregational church is near at hand.

About the same time in the same community a certain number, who, from the old eastern home, had brought certain inherited theological ideas which to them seemed essential, decided to build a Baptist church. Such was built; also a parsonage, and for many years preaching services were regularly held. However, for a considerable time no services were held, the church building was demolished, the parsonage sold, the society disbanded, and the place which knew it, and knew it for its good, will in all probability know it no more.

In 1852, in the neighborhood of what is now Oneida, a Congregational Society was formed. In 1855 the church building, which is still the property of the society, was built, has had an eventful and most useful existence, but the church is pastorless, with slight signs of rejuvenation. There are still members of the church and of the society who hope and look forward to a new life for their beloved church, and for them and for the community as a whole such a consumation is to be wished.

The Oneida Methodist church was built in 1863. It was a live organization to begin with, all its past history proves that it has not lost its pristine enthusiasm, and in keeping with its inner life its material progress is well shown in the new brick edifice which occupies and graces the site of the old wooden structure, and at this writing a new, handsome brick veneered parsonage is nearing completion.

Sometime between 1850 and 1860 a Baptist and a Universalist church were built in Oneida. The latter was destroyed by fire; was rebuilt, but was wrecked by a windstorm. The Baptist church was demolished at the same time and neither was ever rebuilt. There was also a Lutheran organization which at no time had more than thirty members, its existence was brief as its list of members. The Seven Day Adventists had a place of worship for a short time. Church and church goers have disappeared.

There is also on Section 1 a Christian church. It has always been numerically weak and in common with all, or nearly all Ontario churches, it is not only weak, but constantly becoming weaker.

It would appear from the foregoing that at some time there have been in Ontario township ten religious societies, at least eight have had places of worship. At present there are but two congregations having resident pastors—the Methodist and Presbyterian. For this condition there may be many reasons given. It is true that there are a less number of inhabitants in the township, and a smaller percentage of the lesser number are church goers, and again there is a Swedish Lutheran Church in Altona, where a large number of the older people of our township regularly attend public worship. On such occasions they meet with friends of kindred speech and from the pulpit hear the words to memory dear and sing the songs they first heard in their old home, “over there.” There is also a church of the same denomination in Wataga and though not so largely attended as that in Altona still quite a number of families from the southern side of Ontario are attendants and members. The same may be said of the extreme north of the township, the people here going to Woodhull.

However, it will have to be admitted that the chief cause of the decadence and disappearance of churches is the fact that a large and increasing number of people never go to any church and another large, and perhaps increasing, number, seldom go. Neither class mentioned can be depended on as a liberal giver to any department of church work, and churches need friends.

However, in the not distant future all three societies, Altona, Wataga, Woodhull, in all their meetings will use and use only the English tongue. In that case will the present average church attendance prevail, or will decadence and, in many instances, disintegration take place?

Yet even if the church as the embodiment of Christianity should largely or wholly pass, would not that something in it which is greater than itself continue to live, ever, ever marching on.

ORANGE TOWNSHIP

From Sketch by John C. Eiker

Orange, as a present defined and bounded, was one of the first townships in the county to attract the attention of early immigrants to northern Illinois, and the pioneers were not wholly free from fear of predatory visits from the aboriginal owners of the soil. As a matter of fact, however, in 1830—the year the first settlers arrived—the Indians were migrating to the west, and the comparatively few of them remained. A blockhouse was erected, however, in 1830, or '31, and the murder of a white man by a straggling band of hostile savages during the Black Hawk War threw the small community into a ferment of apprehension.

The township is crossed by several well defined trails. That which is known as the Peorian and Galena runs diagonally from northwest to southeast, passing also through Knox, crossing the northeastern corner of the present city of Knoxville. A little to the west of this is another, which crosses Brush Creek, in Section 30, and forms a sort of pathway from that stream to the headwaters of Haw Creek. Several Indian graves have been found and their traces are yet plainly discernable just across the Knox Township boundary line, on Section 32. The last appearance of any considerable body of aborigines in the township was in 1843, when several hundred Sacs and Foxes camped on the northwestern quarter of Section 5, while on their way from the north to their reservation in Indian Territory.

The first white family to settle within the present limits of Orange was that of Joseph Wallace, who located on Section 15, in 1830, and found a rudely constructed cabin suffice for their shelter. After the death of his wife, on the old farm, Mr. Wallace removed to Iowa.

Asa Haynes (born in Dutchess County, New York, in 1804,) came in 1836. He had bought the three hundred acres on Section 30, on which he erected a one-roomed log cabin, in which he took up his residence with his wife, formerly Miss Mary Gaddis, to whom he had been married October 7, 1830. He was hardy, daring and adventurous, but without education other than such as he had obtained during two months' attendance at an Ohio district school each winter during six or seven years. He brought with him his two children, a half brother, Hiram, and a nephew, Isaac Hill. During their journey from Ohio, which occupied nineteen days, they encountered more or less rainfall during seventeen days, and found the rivers swollen to the summit of their banks, even the horses' harness never drying. Mr. Haynes was energetic and enterprising, and from the outset proved a potent factor in the development of

the new country. He started the first brick yard and in 1840, built the first saw mill, which was operated by water power obtained from Brush Creek. In 1841 he erected a large barn, and the following year replaced his primitive cabin with a brick house, which in those early days was regarded as commodious. While by no means a profound scholar himself, he took a deep interest in imparting of at least a sound primary education to children. For a time he himself taught an elementary school in his little cabin, and when his brick home was completed, one room was reserved and furnished as a school-room. Miss Frances Moore was the instructress, becoming later, Mrs. Hiram Haynes. Asa Haynes became, in his day, the largest land holder in Orange Township, at one time owning nine hundred and eighty-nine acres. He was one of the adventurers of 1849 and Captain of the "Jayhawkers" company of gold seekers formed at Galesburg. He led this little band of sixty across the continent. The hardships and privations which the men underwent caused many to drop by the way, but Mr. Haynes reached California safely, where he remained until 1851. Later in life he returned to California and made that State his residence for several years. He returned home and died at the house of a daughter, in Missouri, March 20, 1889.

James Ferguson came from Kentucky, with his family, in the same year with Mr. Wallace settling on Section 11. He had several children but only two are at present residents of Orange; Andrew J., a farmer living on Section 10, and Mrs. Sarah Weir, whose home is on Section 15. The elder Ferguson attained prominence as being the first Justice of the Peace and the first Overseer of the Poor in the township. He was also a soldier in the Black Hawk War, being commissioned as Major. He died in 1841, his widow surviving him for twenty years. Both sleep in the quiet plot of ground reserved for sepulture on the old farm.

Peter Godfrey is among the best known settlers of 1832, and he and his wife are among the oldest and most honored couples belonging to the "Old Settlers' Association of Knox County." John Denney and John and Simon McAllister arrived two years later. Isaiah Hutson and wife emigrated from the State of New York in 1837. He has since died (1883), but his widow and daughter still find their home on the homestead, which was theirs sixty years ago. Thomas Gilbert was also an early settler, his farm being on Section 8. His son, Thomas, is a prominent citizen of Knoxville, and two of his daughters still reside in that city.

Other early settlers of the township who are worthy of especial mention are as follows: Thomas and James Sumner, who came from Ohio in 1837 and settled on Section 23. James lost his life through an accident.

Isreal Turner emigrated from Chester county, Pennsylvania, in 1837. He entered two hundred and forty acres on Section 32, remaining there until he died. Anderson Barnett also came in the same year, settling on Section 10. To him belonged the distinction of begetting the largest family of children (eighteen) ever reared in the township.

The early houses were, of course, of logs and of these Mr. Wallace built the first, on Section 15. Thomas A. Rude erected the first brick dwelling, on the farm of the late William Turner, in the same section. A portion of the latter is still standing, but the residence of Mr. Asa Haynes is probably the oldest structure in the county, remaining precisely as it was built.

The two earliest marriages were those of Alexander Robertson to Narcissa Ferguson, and of Danie IFuqua to Lydia Bomar. This was a double wedding and the ceremony was solemnized by Rev. Jacob Gum at the Ferguson residence, on Section 10. The first white child born (1833) was Cynthia, daughter of James Ferguson.

The first school house was of logs, and stood on Section 14. It was known as the Wallace school, and religious services were occasionally held within its rude, unplastered walls. The first teacher was Thomas Ellison, who wielded the birch during the winter of 1836. He died at Abingdon, in 1897. Mr. Ellison was followed by Anderson Barnett, who taught in 1837 and in 1838. The school house erected in what is now District No. 8 was of brick, Isreal Turner being the mason and the carpentry being done by Charles Corwin. Miss Amanda Corwin, one of the earliest graduates from Knox College, was the first teacher and remained six years. Another early school house was that within the limits of the present District No. 3, where Miss Mary Gilbert Chaffee was the first to give instruction to boys and girls, some of whom have long since passed away, while others have grown old and silver-haired. At present Orange township has eight schools, all ungraded, occupying well constructed frame buildings. The houses are modern and represent an outlay, in the aggregate, of about ten thousand dollars. In addition to this sum, libraries and equipments have cost a thousand dollars. The total enrollment of pupils is two hundred and seventeen.

The earliest religious service held in the township was conducted by Rev. Jacob Gum, a Baptist minister, at the home of James Ferguson.

The first denomination to organize into a church society was the Methodist Episcopal. This body erected a house of worship known as Orange Chapel, in 1855. It was built on Section 22, and was of brick, burned in the yard of Anderson Barnett and laid by Thomas Rambo. The building was dedicated

in the Spring of 1856, by Rev. Richard Haney. The Gilson Circuit was established in 1857-8, and Orange Chapel was included within its limits.

Early in the seventies revival services were held at the school house in District No. 4, which resulted in a general awakening of religious interest. At that time there was no organized church other than Orange Chapel, although there was in the township a moderate sprinkling of Congregationalists and Protestant Methodists. The fervor of both of these sects was aroused. Both denominations organized societies, and Haynes Chapel was built (1871-73) by the Protestant Methodists. The Congregational church had no place of worship and soon ceased to exist as a local organization. A general religious decline appeared to be supervene about the same time, spreading over the territory between Knoxville and Hermon, on the north and south, and Gilson and Abingdon on the east and west. In fact, for nearly twenty years, or until 1890, Orange Chapel was the only center of organic Christian effort. In the last mentioned year, however, a branch of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was formed at Haynes Chapel, with nine active members. For several years the young people conducted weekly services there, after their customary fashion, and in 1893, Rev. A. W. Depew, of Abingdon, began preaching with marked success; Haynes Chapel being considered an outlying station. By this time the Christian Endeavors numbered forty, and it was not long before another Congregational church was organized with twenty-two members. Its first pastor was Rev. Mr. Slater, who preached for the congregation from May, 1894, to February, 1895.

The township was organized and its name chosen at a meeting held April 3, 1853. The name seems to have been selected on account of the shape of the central prairie, which, in those early days, was one of the most beautiful spots in the State. Asa Haynes was elected Supervisor; A. Barnett, Clerk; A. Pierce, Assessor; J. G. Rude, Collector; Peter Godfrey and David Stephens, Constables; Samuel Mather and J. Wallace, Overseers of the Poor; J. H. McGrew, Thomas Gilbert and Morris Chase, Highway Commissioners.

The chief industries are agriculture and stock raising, although in those early days, brick yards were started by Asa Haynes, Thompson Rude and Anderson Barnett. These ventures proved unprofitable, however, and the kilns long ago fell into disintegration and decay. From the time of its settlement Orange ranked high among the best cereal producing sections of the county, although a lack of transportation facilities prevented the marketing of the grain raised. More than half was used in the fattening of stock. Haynes, Godfrey and Sumner Brothers manifested great interest in improving the

quality of live stock and were the first to introduce spotted China hogs and Shorthorn cattle.

The principle market of the pioneers was Peoria, although Canton and Oquawka received a fair share of the farm products. The farmers hauled their produce by teams, receiving in exchange supplies which they carried home to their expectant families. The opening of the first railroad, in 1854, altered the entire situation, shippers now finding Chicago at once the most accessible and most profitable market.

The only village in Orange is De Long, a flourishing little station, on the line of the Narrow Gauge Road, now C., B. & Q. It came into existence in 1882, and owes its being—as it does its name—to S. H. Malory. He bought the site from Wayne Marks when the preliminary survey of the line was made, in anticipation of a station being established thereon, and called the village DeLong, in honor of the explorer of that name. It can boast two general stores, one grain elevator, a barber shop, two blacksmith shops, a building containing a hall and store room, and about twenty-five residences. Its population is about 100 and it is a relatively important point for grain and stock.

The township furnished its full quota of troops in both the Mexican and Civil Wars.

Wm. H. Wiley is the only surviving soldier now living, January, 1920, in the township from which he enlisted.

John Lawrence, Isaac and Samuel Mather were among the early settlers. The Township Hall is located in the center of the township and is a building originally used for a Farmer's Grange Supply Store, Wm. Forlow being the manager in the years from '75 to 80. The White School House, two miles north of DeLong, was one of the first schools in the township, the first building was built of logs. The Civil War was furnished two Captains, Wm. Reynolds and Wright Woolsey.

Orange township furnished its quota in the Spanish-American and also in the recent World War.

Eiker

(Facts in the foregoing sketch, not contained in the Reese history, were furnished by W. A. Wiley.)

PERSIFER TOWNSHIP

By Joseph ~~M.~~^{W.} Miles

The name—Persifer—was given to a postoffice which was located at the home of Charles Bradford, who owned the northwest quarter of Section 27 in this township and whose home was located at the southwest corner of his farm. We do not know who chose the name, but it was named in honor of General Persifer Frazier Smith who served in the Mexican war. Morgan Reece told me that people wrote the name they wanted and sent it to Knoxville.

The township was set off as a separate town sometime in the Fall of 1849, and on January 14, 1850, the voters at an election chose the name Persifer for the township. At that time Haw Creek and Persifer were in one precinct and I have heard my father say that the polling place was at the residence of Booker Pickrel which was located at the northwest corner of Section 3 in Haw Creek township. It is now the home of John Spear.

The township is located near the top of the east slope of the ridge which lies between the Illinois and the Mississippi river. As a consequence the general slope is east and south. A bend in Spoon river cuts off about 300 acres on the east side of the township, and this with Court Creek and its tributaries (Middle Creek, North Creek and Sugar Creek) and other small streams, furnish excellent drainage for the township. These streams render the greater part of the land very rough there being only about 3,000 acres of prairie land in the township, making it more of a grazing than a farming region.

Originally at least three-fourths of the township was covered with timber or scattered trees. The land where the scattered trees grew was called barrens, but the word was a misnomer for the barrens is now the home of some of our most progressive and well to do citizens. When the early settlers came nearly all of the timber was large trees. Then as the settlers cut the trees, new trees came up from the seed and now what timber we have is nearly all what is called second growth. Nearly all of this second growth has been cut and killed until we have very little timber left at the present time. The principal timber is the oak of which the white oak is probably the most useful variety. Burr oak comes next in usefulness. Black oak is the most plentiful. There is also red oak, pin oak and jack oak. There are also a few cottonwood, a few elms, a few lynn, a few box alder, a few ash, hickory, black walnut and hard maple. When the early settlers first came to the county there was a white pine grove on Section 25. Some of the trees were more than two feet through at the stump. This grove was soon all cut and used up. Most of it was sawed at the Whitton

saw mill which was situated at the Sumner bridge on Spoon river in the northeast corner of Haw Creek township. One house was built from this white pine lumber—that of Captain Taylor of Trenton. This house was the first (or second) frame house built in the township. Excepting this small grove, none of the native timber is of much use as building material except as frame materiel. Very little wood is now used for fuel, nearly everyone uses coal for heating and cooking purposes at the present time. The greatest use of native timber is posts, coal props—of which a great many are shipped from the township—and bridge plank.

Mineral Deposits

There are plentiful deposits of shale in the township that would make excellent brick but as yet there is no factory for making brick and as concrete is beginning to be so extensively used and is such an excellent building material, there probably never will be any brick made from it.

Coal is also found in all parts of the township, but it is not mined to any extent. Three separate veins of coal crop out in the township. The highest vein is in the north part of the town and is 4 feet thick and is of excellent quality. The other veins are but two feet thick and are very hard and make a great many cinders.

The only stone in the township is sandstone, of which there is a small supply. It is soft and does not withstand the climate very well. As there is practically no gravel to use in making concrete, and the other building materials are so scarce, it is readily seen that materials for building is one of our worst drawbacks.

Persifer is well supplied with fertile soil. About one-fourth of the land is what is know nas “Marshall Silt Loam” and is what was originally prairie and barrens. All the remainder of the land—except the bottom land—is called “Miami Silt Loam.”

In the early days the settlers used springs or shallow wells for water, but year by year the wells had to be made deeper and deeper until at the present time drilled wells from 50 to 300 feet deep furnish the purest and the most abundant supply of water. In the early days people secured soft water by setting buckets, washtubs, or barrels under the eaves of their houses to catch the rain water as it ran from the eaves. Now nearly every house has its cistern for rain water. Cisterns usually hold from 60 to 80 barrels of water and people are seldom out of it.

The prairies not only furnish a fertile soil for farming but in the early days furnished spontaneously an abundant sup-

ply of roughage for stock. The timber also furnished acorns in sufficient quantities to fatten not only deer but all the hogs the early settlers raised. Honey was also plentiful. Mr. R. C. Benson told of one bee tree that he cut from which he filled all the tubs and buckets he had and then stood in honey several inches deep.

Several kinds of fruit and nuts are native to the township. Wild grapes, plums, black-berries, straw-berries, elder-berries, and wild crabs were found, and black walnuts, butternuts, hickory nuts, and hazelnuts were also plentiful. A party of young people once went into Court Creek bottoms near where Appleton now stands and gathered a washtub full of wild straw-berries.

Game Abundant

Game was plentiful until about 1850. Parts of the elephant and the mastodon have been found in Persifer. A mastodon's tooth was found on North Creek by Albert Wyman and I think it is now in the possession of Fred R. Jelliff, editor of the Republican-Register. The writer also found a part of a mastodon tooth on Section 35. What appears to be an entire tooth of an elephant was found by Luther Webb in Court Creek on Section 22 in 1917. I have often heard my father, R. W. Miles, say that the bones and horns of the bison were plentiful upon the prairies when he came here in 1836. Although these larger animals had disappeared from the country before the settlers came, there remained plenty of deer, a few elk, and numbers of wild turkeys. Prairie chicken, quail, squirrels, the raccoon and rabbits were abundant in those days but most of them have now disappeared. Prairie chickens were so numerous in the early days that Charles Bradford and his son William killed 24 by firing one shot each at a flock sitting on the first grain stacks ever stacked in Persifer. R. W. Miles on several occasions killed as many as 7 prairie chickens at one shot and the writer has seen as many as a thousand in one flock, but they have now almost disappeared from this part of the country.

Fur bearing animals are still to be found in small numbers. Probably \$500.00 worth of furs are procured each year.

Indians were doubtless quite numerous at one time but very few were ever seen after the white settlers came and they were doubtless wandering bands. Many of their flint arrow heads and stone axes have been found. The poles of their wigwams which were standing when the settlers came would indicate that there was an Indian village where the town of Dahinda now stands. There are a few mounds in the township, but they may have belonged to a former race. The Indians had no burial place in the township so far as I have ever heard, unless the mounds be such place. What is known as the Galena

trail—one branch of it—passed through the township. It ran almost straight north from the south side of the township to Court Creek, crossing that stream where the present Appleton bridge stands. From there it followed a northwesterly direction. A branch trail from the mouth of Court Creek joined it near the northwest corner of the township. The trails were much used by the early settlers as they were very good roads, the Indians not having to follow the section lines in the selection of their highways. Mr. W. G. Sargeant says that there were a number of poles of wigwams on the hills on the east side of Sugar Creek and south of what is known as Round Bottom.

One of the Indians who sometimes visited this section during the days of the early settlement was the chief, Shabona. He once offered to show William Morris a silver mine in the northeast part of the township, but Mr. Morris, fearing treachery, would not go with him. Afterwards when returning from a journey of some sort he came across a spot that corresponded with that described to him by Shabona. But when he went to look for it again he could never find the same place. It may seem strange that Mr. Morris could not find the place again, but I have heard my father say that once when returning from a hunting trip crossing Court Creek bottoms which had been freshly burned over he found quite a large piece of land strewn thickly with human bones, which were so badly burned that they fell in pieces when he tried to pick them up and although he tried to find the place afterwards he could not do so.

Early Settlers

William Morris, mentioned above, was probably the first white settler. He bought the N. W. 1-4 Section 26 on March 10, 1832. During the winter of 1832-3 he lodged in a hollow sycamore tree which stood near the south bank of Spoon River just below the mouth of Court Creek. Mr. Morris came from Wilksville, Gallia Co., Ohio. He married Miss Ruth Vaughn, who came from Kentucky. Mr. Morris probably built his cabin in 1833, but it is said to have burned down soon after it was built.

Beverly Young and Jesse and Willis Reynolds came to the township in 1833. They came from Munfordsville, Kentucky. Beverly Young settled on the east 1-2 of the northeast of Section 26.

Jesse Reynolds settled on the west 1-2 of the same quarter. Willis Reynolds settled on the west 1-2 of the southwest 1-4 of Section 25. Some time in the fall of 1834 Charles Bradford came from Licking county, Ohio, and bought the Beverly Young place and moved into the house which Mr. Young had built there. The next year, 1835, Mr. Bradford bought the north west 1-4 of Section 27 and moved into a house that stood

just across the road west on Section 28. In 1836, Rev. S. S. Miles came to the township from Ohio and bought a part of the northwest 1-4 of Section 34, but did not move onto the place until the spring of 1839, although he lived nearby while he was building his house which, as he was in poor health and his oldest son was but 14 years old, it took him some time to do.

In 1837 many families came to the township, among them being those of Edmond Russell, Isaac Sherman, G. W. Manley, T. D. Butt, Caleb Reece, John Caldwell and James Maxey. After this new arrivals became quite frequent and neighbors were not so far apart.

First Marriages

The first marriage in which the contracting parties were residents of the township, was that of Charles Bradford and Parmelia Ann Richardson. Mr. Bradford was a native of New Hampshire but after his first marriage lived in the state of Maine a short time. He then moved to Licking county, Ohio, and later, in 1834, came to Illinois. Mr. Richardson came from Kentucky. They were married in Peoria some time in the spring of 1836.

The first wedding which occurred in the township was that of Harvey Stetson Bradford, son of Charles Bradford and Hester Whitton. They were married October 24, 1836, at the home of the groom's father who lived on the northwest 1-4 section 27. The Rev. Bartlett, a Baptist minister from Knoxville, performed the ceremony.

It has often been stated that R. C. Benson and Sarah Bradford were the first couple married in the township, but they were not married until January 5, 1837. They were married at the home of the bride's father, Chas. Bradford. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. S. S. Miles.

The first child born in the township is said to have been a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Reynolds, but there was a child born to Mr. and Mrs. Willis Reynolds in January, 1835.

First Death

The first death was that of Mrs. Charles Bradford, which occurred on January 5, 1835. Mrs. Bradford was in poor health when she came to the township, in 1834, and lived only a few months. She was buried on their own farm almost at the center of of the N. E. 1-4 of Section 26.

The first public cemetery was in Section 9 on what is now known as the Charles Myers farm. The first burial therein was a son of John Henderson, who then owned the farm.

Mr. David Russell, who came to the township with his father in 1837, says that there was a cemetery at Trenton at

that time. This cemetery is located just east of where the town of Trenton stood and is known as the Trenton cemetery.

Modes of Travel

Traveling in those days was not very rapid. In the winter of 1835-6 Rev. S. S. Miles, who lived in Newark, Ohio, was in very poor health. The doctors told him that he would live only until spring came, but as soon as he was able to get onto a horse he began riding out every day and as soon as he could ride 10 miles a day he started for Illinois. He came to the township in June of that year and bought his farm and rode back to Ohio on horseback. When there he loaded his family into a wagon and brought them to Illinois the same fall.

They traveled quite slowly, leading a cow behind the wagon and camping out nights. The milk from the cow was hung up in the wagon in a tin bucket every morning and at night fresh butter was taken from the bucket. Many of the roads were cordoroy, especially in Indiana, and most of the streams had to be forded or ferried. Mr. Miles lived 40 years after coming to Illinois. His death was October 6, 1876.

Charles Bradford brought his family to Illinois in the same way. He brought one two-horse wagon and one six-horse wagon. His daughter, Mrs. P. C. Benson, told me that the only incident that she could think of in the journey from Ohio was that one of the wagons upset after they had passed all the hills and streams and were only about a mile from the place where they located. Nearly all of the settlers came in wagons, but it is quite likely that a few of them came on foot.

The first mail was carried on horseback, the carrier crossing Spoon River at a place called Jack's ford. This ford was located about 80 rods below the mouth of Court Creek and about the same distance above the township line.

The first public conveyance and one which also carried the mail was the stage-coach. Just when the stage began running through Persifer we do not know, but it seems to have been running in 1837, according to Mr. David Russell, who came to the township that year and was 15 years of age. The first route of the stage was from Trenton west nearly to the R. C. Benson farm, then in a southwesterly direction to the Miles farm, thence nearly on a straight line to Knoxville, passing the G. W. Manley farm, (now owned by Geo. W. Haner), where was a fine spring where people stopped to water. This route missed all the hills between Spoon River and Knoxville. The state road through Trenton and Knoxville was laid out in 1838. T. D. Butt, Caleb Reece and John Coleman were the commissioners.

In the early 40's the people desired a postoffice closer than Knoxville and one was established at the home of Charles

Bradford, Mr. Bradford being appointed postmaster. We do not know the date when the office started but some place the date as early as 1842. Several years afterwards the office was moved to Trenton and the name was changed to Trenton.

Schools

The first school of which we know was taught by Mary Ann Long in 1839. The school was held in a cabin which stood in the hollow just north of the present Maple Grove School house, District No. 91. This school was not a public school, but was supported by subscription. Mr. C. N. Butt, now living in Knoxville, was a pupil of that school.

The first school house was built in 1841 on the line between the Francis Wilson and the John Caldwell farms. It stood on the north side of the road 1-4 mile west of the center of Section 30. It was a log structure with the door in the south and one row of panes where a log had been sawed out in the east and west of the house for windows. We believe that John McIntosh was the first teacher and that Curtis Edgerton was the second, but some have said that Mr. Edgerton was the first. So far as we know the pupils who attended the first public school were James and George McPherrin, Neptin, Lucina and Mary Russell, Charles N. Butt, Jacob Brunk, and John C. Hearn.

The first school trustees of Persifer were T. D. Butt and Samuel McCormack. The first meeting was on January 10, 1846, and the first official act was the appointment of Francis Wilson to the office of Secretary and Treasurer.

Another log school house was built in an early day near the town of Trenton, but it was probably not built until after the one on the Wilson farm. This building stood between 80 and 90 rods almost due east of the present Trenton school building.

There are now nine frame school buildings in the township and the schools are all graded. According to the census of June 1st, 1918, there are 207 pupils of school age in the township. The value of the school property in the township is \$9,830.00 and the amount of tax levy for last year was \$6,325.00.

Business

Persifer boasts the first mill in Knox county. It was built in 1834, by Robert Hendrix. It stood on the south bank of Court Creek at the mouth of Middle Creek—just above where the Knoxville and Victoria road crosses Court Creek on Section 19. At first only corn was ground at this mill, but later wheat was also ground by Samuel McCormack. This mill was afterwards converted into a saw mill and was owned and operated by Andrew Fletcher, Hubbard Huggins, Daniel Anderson and

David Russell. Mr. Russell was operating the mill when the dam was washed away in 1853.

The next place of importance in the township was the town of Trenton. It was the first town and was laid out in 1839 by Hiram Bowman on Section 25. It contained a tavern and hostelry, a postoffice, 2 stores, a blacksmith shop, a pottery and a brick yard. Charles Bradford kept the postoffice, which was moved from his farm to Trenton. A man by the name of Goodman kept the first store. It was a regular stopping place for the stage as long as that mode of conveyance was in use, which was up to 1853. The name of one of the stage drivers was Dave Brownlee and the name of another was Oliver Pike. These men were of the rough and ready sort or they would not have been in such a business at that time. At one time one of these men brought a young lady to Galesburg who was to teach in Knox College. It was a very icy time and when the driver opened the stage door and reached up to help the young lady out his feet went from under him and he went flat on the ground. The young lady, (I forget her name), was so far out of the coach that she could not keep her balance, so she very neatly jumped over the fallen driver and alighted on the curb without any assistance. But the driver was not daunted by the mishap to himself. He turned to a half dozen young men who were standing by and beginning to laugh at him and said: "Boys, there's terrible times over in Knoxville. The niggers are dying off at the rate of six a minute." (There was but one negro in Knox county at the time). Both these men went to California in the gold digging days.

An Early Mill

Elliott's Mill, so-called in honor of Captain Hiram Elliott, who was captain of Company H, 102 Illinois Infantry, and who owned and operated the mill for several years, was built in 1840 at the mouth of Court Creek on Spoon River. It stood on the south bank of the river at the mouth of the creek and has quite a history. Some time prior to 1840, probably in 1839, Thomas Gilbert who lived south of Knoxville and who was one of the men who sought out the location for Knox College and a man named Captain Jack made a tour of inspection along Spoon River and decided that the spot we have described was the best place for a mill site. As these men did not wish to go partners in the mill and neither wanted to pay the other for what the law gave free to the man who first began to build, both men went home and watched for an opportunity to get the first start. Finally Captain Jack started for Oquawka for two loads of castings for a mill. After his departure Mr. Gilbert heard of it in some way and not to be out-done he engaged all the men that he could get to go with him from Knoxville and they went out to the river and began cutting walnut logs in the creek

bottoms just west of the mill site. They worked all night, cutting, hewing and dragging out the logs and when Captain Jack got back with his castings he found that he was beaten. It is said that he hauled the castings down the river a short distance, threw them out of his wagons and never picked them up. Although Mr. Gilbert secured the site for the mill, for some reason he did not build the mill. He may have sold the site to a man named McKee, for a man named McKee built the mill. Mr. McKee doubtless began building the mill in 1839 for the frame was up early in the spring of 1840, and it was finished that year. It was a large substantial structure and remained standing 41 years. In the beginning it was a saw mill but it was later converted into a flour mill and was for many years one of the most important milling centers in the county. As the mill grew in importance Trenton declined and one of the stores was moved from Trenton to the mill. For several years there were two stores and a blacksmith shop and at one time there were two saloons in operation. One of them was even named the Blue Goose. The mill was owned first by McKee then by the Lewis boys, (Laderic, Loid, Loren and Luther Lewis), then by a Mr. Stinocker, then by Captain Elliott, then by Proctor Myers, then by Henry Corbin and last by John Degrummond. After about 1870 the water began to fail so badly in the streams that the mill finally had to quit business about 1875. The building finally became unsafe and was torn down by Mr. Degrummond in the spring of 1881.

The Golden Circle

During the Civil War the Knights of the Golden Circle were quite numerous in the vicinity of the mill and for a long time they met every Saturday night in an old log house that stood on the west side of the road just on the high bank of the creek. The house was one story with a loft and a stone chimney on the outside. Mr. Henry Butt, who told me of the circumstances, was a good sized boy at the time and was staying with the miller. He says that on Saturday evenings when it was getting dark men would begin to ride in on horseback from all directions and tie their horses in the low ground back of the house where they would be entirely out of sight from the road. There were usually about 25 of them and they would gather in the loft of the old house and stay there for quite a long time before they dispersed. Mr. Butt was very anxious to know what they were meeting for and so one night he climbed up the chimney until his head was above the floor of the loft and listened, but although he could hear them talking he could not distinguish anything that they said. The Knights kept up their meetings until the draft was called when some of them in order to escape the draft left the country and the circle was broken up. The Knights of the Golden Circle was a secret

organization, originated in the south for the extension and defense of slavery. It contained many men in all the southern states and a great many northern men. In Persifer they went so far as to plot the murder of some of the prominent citizens. The writer's father was the first one whom they planned to execute, but a friend of our family who was a member of the Circle, came to our people and told them what was planned. As I think of it now I do not know the man's name, I only know that he was an Irishman.

The third and last mill to be built in the township was built by Charles Haptonstall about 1848. It was built on Court Creek, about 80 rods west of the road leading south from the town of Appleton. In it corn and buckwheat were ground at first, but it was later converted into a saw mill and not being very substantial was never a place of much business.

All of the mills and the town of Trenton have long since disappeared as places of public business and there were no other places of that character except a few blacksmith shops until the A. T. & S. F. R. R. was built in 1888. There have been several blacksmith shops in the south half of the township aside from the ones already mentioned. The following are all that the writer remembers: Francis Wilson on his farm on Section 30, Thomas Gordon on the Wm. Morris farm on Section 26, Stephen Clark on what is now known as the Wm. Breece farm on Section 26, and, at a later date, Jas. Kelso, on the hill south of Appleton.

Dahinda was laid out in the summer of 1888 by the Santa Fe Town and Land Co. It stands on the west bank of the Spoon River on the N. W. of Section 24 and is a station on the Santa Fe R. R. There is a Methodist Episcopal church and a Latter Day Saints church, generally known as an offspring of the Mormon church. Guy H. Peters has a store and is postmaster. Charles Woolsey and A. E. Sargeant each have stores and James Kelso has a blacksmith shop. A. E. Sargeant also runs the elevator and E. W. Farquer has a barber shop. The A. T. & S. F. R. R. which traverses the township from west to east with a fine double track has a fine bridge across Spoon River at this place.

Appleton was laid out by the Hon. J. H. Lewis in the spring of 1888, on the S. E. 1-4 of Section 16. It is situated on the north side of the Santa Fe R. R. and is a station on that road. Mr. Wm. A. Iles has a store and is postmaster. Alfred E. Saline has a store and a grain elevator. There is also a blacksmith shop and a Church of the United Brethren in Christ. Quite a large amount of grain and stock is shipped from Appleton each year.

The Prairie State Oil Co. has pipe lines and a pumping station in the township. The pipe lines follow the Santa Fe

tracks and the pumping station is by the side of that road on Section 23. They also have a switch from the Santa Fe tracks.

Another pipe line runs through the south part of the township but has no pumping station here.

Churches

The first sermon preached in the township so far as we have any record, was at the home of Charles Bradford in June, 1836. The preacher was the Rev. S. S. Miles. He also organized the first Sunday school at the same place in 1838. The first lesson was from the Book of Daniel. The first church was built in 1863 on the Robert Young farm at the center of Section 30. It cost \$1,800.00. There are now seven church buildings in the township but two of them are not used. The church on the Young farm is called Bethel and is Methodist. Maxey Chapel stands at the center of Section 5 and is Methodist. One of the churches at Dahinda is Methodist and the other is an offshoot of the Mormon church, called the Latter Day Saints. The church at Appleton is the old United Brethren denomination. The church which stands at the center of Section 8 and the one standing at the southwest corner of Section 27 belong to the revised division of the United Brethren church. The two latter are not in use at the present time. The U. B. Church at Appleton built a parsonage in 1917. It is the first parsonage in the township.

Religious Life

A great deal might be said about the religion of Persifer people. In the first days of the settlement there were no churches nor school houses and the meetings had to be held for the most part in the homes of the settlers and later when a large barn was built it would sometimes be used for holding meetings. The barn on the Robert Young farm was once used for holding a revival meeting, Mr. Young being himself a great church man. A goodly number were converted at this meeting and some of them became very enthusiastic. One man coming out of the barn after he had joined the church saw his son talking with some other young men out in the yard and coming up to him said: "Son, you d——d fool you, why don't you go in and join the meeting? Mother's joined and I've joined and the girls have joined and we've all joined." Possibly the enthusiasm would to a certain extent excuse the profanity.

After the school houses were built they were used almost exclusively for holding religious services until the churches were built. They were the only places of public worship for years. Many people liked the school house the best for church services as it was not the property of any denomination and people felt more at home there.

At one time in the early days a Spiritualist came into the Young neighborhood and gave a few talks and the older people began to be worried on account of the young people, and tried to get the man to leave the community. Instead of leaving, however, he proposed that they get some one to debate the subject with him and leave the question to be settled in that way and Mr. Robert Young took him at his word and tried to find some preacher who would debate with him. But Mr. Young could not find a preacher who would undertake the task and finally a man named Ruff Branscom told him to get R. W. Miles. Mr. Miles said he would debate with him and got Mr. Branscom to pretend that he wanted to join the spiritualists and get some of their books for Mr. Miles to study. The debate was finally called and lasted only an hour and a half when the spiritualist was ready to quit. Mr. Young now said that as Mr. Miles had spent some time in studying up for the debate and had given them such good service it was no more than right that they should take up a collection for him. He then proceeded to take up the collection wearing a very broad smile at the same time. One of the neighbors seeing this smile spoke up and said that if it was a victory, it was not a Methodist victory, at which remark Mr. Young's smile only grew the broader.

Many meetings of great interest have been held in the township and many people have been converted in them and although there have been many backsliders there have also been those who were faithful.

Agricultural Evolution

The first land broken was six acres on what is known as the Stevens farm in the S. E. of the N. E. of Section 28. Six acres were also broken on the S. E. of Section 34 at about the same time.

The first crop was oats and wheat and the farmer was Wm. Morris.

The prairie sod was very tough and hard to plow. The plows were made almost wholly of wood, there being an iron shire and I suppose an iron clevis. Usually the plows were attached to wagon wheels as a man could not manage one of them and they were drawn by oxen, generally two or three yoke to a plow. The sod was often left to rot over winter. One man planted corn on freshly broken sod by using an ax to make the holes and cover the corn.

The first crop did not need tending but after that the weeds were too bad to let go. One man in speaking of this fact said that he trusted to providence to raise a crop one year and got a good crop, so he tried it again and got nothing and he was not going to trust to providence again.

After the sod was rotted the soil could be furrowed out with a shovel plow, and then a man by walking across the furrows could drop the corn so that it would be in rows both ways. Sometimes they would cover it with a hoe, sometimes with a plow and sometimes with a harrow.

The first corn planter was made about 1851, but they were not in general use until in the sixties. The first check-rower was a rope but it was soon replaced by the wire as the rope would shrink and stretch too much. The check-row planter came into use about 1875.

The sowing, harvesting and threshing of the small grains has improved as much as the planting of corn. In the early days small grain was all sown by hand. A man would take from 1-2 to 1 1-2 bushels of grain in a sack and carry it across the field, reaching his hand into the sack every second step, taking thence a certain amount of seed and scattering it in front and to one side of him. Finally the hoe drill was invented, which was used mostly for seeding fall grains. Later the broadcast seeder came into use, being used mostly for seeding spring grains. Finally in the end of the nineteenth century the endgate seeder and the disk drill came into use.

The cradle was used for cutting the grain for many years after this country was settled. A man could cut and bind and shock about an acre a day in those days. After the cradle came the dropper, the hand rake reaper, the self rake reaper, the Marsh Harvester, the wire binder and finally the twine binder, which has been without a competitor for almost forty years.

For threshing their grain the earliest settlers were obliged to use the flail. Then they began using horses. A small piece of ground would be smoothed off nicely and some grain would be unbound and scattered on this smooth spot. Then a man, or sometimes two men, would mount a horse and leading 2 or 3 other horses he would go around and around on the grain until the grain was all trampled out of the heads, when they would dismount and cleaning away the straw with forks would gather up the grain and put it in sacks ready for cleaning.

The first threshing machine was called a ground-beater. It was only a cylinder. The grain and straw and chaff all came through onto the ground together and had to be separated by pitch fork and fanning mill. It was run by horse power, the power being made for six horses. Tumbling rods were used. The first threshing was done on what was then the Parkins place, on the hill near the center of the place. The place is the south 1-2 of the S. E. of Section 32. The man who owned and ran the machine was named Pittner and he lived near Canton, Fulton county. Milton Lotts helped thresh.

Great improvements have been made in the kind of power

used and in the handling of the straw so that the thresher is now almost as well perfected as the binder.

At the present time the gas tractor is very much talked of and is used to a limited extent, but its place as a mode of power is not yet established.

Plows have been greatly improved upon from the wooden plow of the pioneers to the two-bottom gang drawn by four horses.

The manure spreader is another very practical farm machine.

The tiling of land has been a great improvement to much of the land here. It is quite generally conceded that 4-inch tile is as small as should be used.

Fertilizing the soil is coming more and more into vogue and we believe that the practice will increase very rapidly in the next few years.

The use of concrete on farms is increasing very fast also.

Corn is considered the banner crop in this township but wheat has been doing very well for several years, at least it has averaged better than it used to do. A great many fields of wheat made 30 bushels to the acre in 1918. Some fields made better than 40 bushels to the acre. The price of wheat was fixed by the government at \$2.26 per bushel for the 1918 crop at Chicago. The farmer got \$2.08 at his station.

Unusual Events

The country is subject to sudden changes of temperature. The most notable was perhaps in the winter of 1836-7. It was a warm, misty day, with the wind in the south until about 2 o'clock P. M., when the wind suddenly changed to the northwest and the two inches of slush which was on the ground was turned to ice in fifteen minutes. In some instances hogs and cattle were frozen to death standing up. Some people took their horses into their houses to keep them from freezing.

In the winter of 1874-5, one morning in January, the weather was very nice until about 10 o'clock a. m., when it began snowing. Immediately afterward the wind began blowing from the northwest and in one hour the mercury fell 24 degrees.

On June 5, 1844 occurred one of the most destructive storms of wind, rain and hail. The crops were almost totally destroyed. There was no wheat left to cut and my grandfather told me that his corn crop that year was only a ten bushel box full of nubbins in which was only five bushels of corn. The hail stones were as large as goose eggs.

What has been known as a hurricane occurred in 1857.

It was a straight wind with rain. The storm was 40 miles wide and was severe enough to blow the roofs off of many buildings and blow some of them down. I do not know what time of the year this storm was but it must have been in the spring as I have never heard that it destroyed any crops.

About the first of August, 1875, a tornado passed through the township from west to east. A two-story house which stood a short distance west of the Flynn school house in Court Creek bottom was picked up and carried two or three rods and dashed into kindling wood. A good deal of other damage was done but fortunately no one was injured, although this was not the case in Knox township.

On the 21st of May, 1918, another tornado started apparently on Section 28 and proceeded in a direction a little north of east, wrecking buildings and uprooting even the largest trees and passing about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Dahinda. One man, a Mr. Walker, pump man at the oil pumping station, was killed and the pump house, a concrete building, was completely wrecked. Another man, the name unknown, was blown a distance of ten or fifteen rods and was found after the storm pretty badly bruised but not seriously hurt. Very little damage was done to the crops by this storm as it was so early in the season. The farm buildings of Henry Anderson and the dwelling house of Harry Little were very badly wrecked and Mr. Little was himself unconscious during the storm. He showed no marks where any object had struck him and he does not know what rendered him unconscious.

Some winters we have lots of snow and many of the roads are drifted so as to make them impassible. In the spring of 1881 the snow lay on in sheltered places until the first of May.

Dwellings and Furnishings

The first houses in the township were of logs. The first one is supposed to have been that of Wm. Morris on Section 26.

About 8 years afterwards there seem to have been three frame houses built at about the same time. Edmond Russell built a frame house on his farm on section 31 in 1841. It was burned down in 1886. Captain Taylor, who emigrated here from Nova Scotia, built the first frame house in Trenton in 1841. The frame of this house was sawed from native white pine which grew on what was called Pine Bluff about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north and east of Trenton. (The logs were said to have been sawed at the Whitton mill at what is now known as the Sumner bridge in the northeast corner of Haw Creek township.) The third frame house and the first house to be painted white was built on the Bethel corner at the center of Section 30. It was built by a Mr. Davenport for his daughter, whose name was Easley.

James M. Maxey built the first brick house in 1851, making his own brick. The first brick building was a smoke house built by T. D. Butt. The Stevens house has stood the longest of any brick house in the township. It has stood about 60 years. The brick for it were burned on the Biggerstaff place just across the road from where Henry Wesner lives. Sam Conaway burned the brick for this house.

The frame house seems to be the most healthful and comfortable dwelling made although it is not so substantial as some other materials.

Some great improvements have been made in the furnishings of the dwellings. The fireplace has given place to the range and the furnace, the washboard to the power washer, tallow candle to the incandescent electric light in a great many cases, the needle to the sewing machine, the melodeon to the piano and the talking machine, the straw bed on the floor to the spring bed and mattress, the husk rug to the Brussels, the Axminster or the Wilton rug, the home-made lounge to the hammock and the costly couch and davenport, the old fashioned chair to expensive elegance but not to comfort.

The writer is not posted on early amusements, but he has heard his people tell of some of the things they did in the early days. There were the quilting bees, the shooting matches, the debating societies, the singing schools, the Fourth of Julys, the corn huskings and the wool washings. As I have never seen the wool washing described I will try to do so. The young people would be invited to a home to spend the evening. Several tubs would be secured and in these would be placed wool and water. Then the young people (young men and women) would gather around a tub, as many as could conveniently do so, remove their shoes and stockings, put them into the tub and work them up and down until the wool was thoroughly scoured. The washed wool would then be removed and fresh wool put in its place and the performance would go on until the wool was all washed or until it was time to go home.

Horse racing on the road was also one of the incidentals of the day. In the early days the wagon boxes were put together with pins and could be easily taken apart and sometimes when the wagon was being driven very rapidly the pins would bounce out and let the box come to pieces of its own accord. One man who had been to Peoria and was coming home with his groceries in the wagon box got into a race with some other people who were coming in the same direction. The race began somewhere east of the Spoon River and lasted until Trenton was reached. When this man stopped he had neither groceries nor wagon box, both having been lost on the way and he was sitting on the coupling pole of his wagon. He

might not have stopped there if his horses had not run into a tree and stopped themselves.

Politics

Politics in Persifer has sometimes been very interesting although mostly in a small way.

Before the township was organized, G. W. Manley was Justice of the Peace. The first election was held April 5, 1853, at the White school house, now known as the Union or District No. 90. The following officers were elected:

G. W. Manley, Supervisor; Richard Daniel, Clerk; James McCord, Assessor; Williams T. Butt, Collector; Wilson Fearce, Overseer of the Poor; Francis Wilison, Caleb Reece and David Cobb, Commissioners of Highways; Thomas Patton and R. W. Miles, Justices; L. A. Parkins and David Russell, Constables. G. W. Manley was moderator and Richard Daniel, clerk of the meeting.

The writer does not know when the custom began but when he was a boy the elections were held at the Union school house one year and the next at the Wyman school house.

About 1892 or 1893, Mr. E. J. Steffen offered his carpenter shop in the town of Appleton for election purposes and it was used until the Town Hall was built in 1895. Mr. E. J. Steffen built the hall for the township at a cost of \$540.00. The elections have always been held at the hall ever since that time.

At the time of Lincoln's second election feeling ran very high in this part of the country, and it was not considered safe to count the ballots at the school house so they were brought to my father's home for counting. Abram Rambo, James Dossett, William Patton and my father, R. W. Miles, sat around the dining table with big navy revolvers lying handy and counted the ballots. Mr. Patton, being a long ways from home, did not go home that night, but Mr. Rambo went home on horseback and said he was going to carry his revolver cocked all the way. Mr. Dossett went home on foot across the fields. He also carried a revolver and he was one of the kind that would have shot first and made inquiries afterwards if any one had tried to molest him on that trip. We can hardly imagine that such times have ever existed in this peaceful country.

The following men have been Supervisor of the township: G. W. Manley, R. W. Miles, James M. Maxey, John Biggerstaff, James Dossett, R. C. Benson, E. J. Wyman, J. R. Young, W. H. Montgomery, J. J. Patton and Geo. A. Gibson. R. W. Miles and J. R. Young each held the office for about 20 years, Mr. Young holding it for 20 years continuously without opposition. Mr. Miles was for many years chairman of the board.

Mr. Gibson, our present supervisor, has been quite severe-

ly tested in caring for the Liberty loans and the Red Cross and other war work organizations, but he has responded loyally and royally to the calls.

The present township officers are: Geo. A. Gibson, Supervisor; Leonard Harmison, Town Clerk; E. W. Farquer, Assessor; Roy Stevens, Commissioner of Highways; E. J. Steffen and W. H. Montgomery, Justices; Roy W. Manley, Constable, Arthur Berry having recently resigned from the office of Constable; Arthur Berry, Bert Wagher and C. W. Harmison, Trustees of Schools and J. W. Miles, Township Treasurer.

This is the first year that we have had but one commissioner of highways.

Old Settlers

So far as we have been able to learn there is no one living in the township now who has lived here continuously since 1850. Mr. G. W. Sargeant came to the township with his parents in 1845 and settled on the north 1-2 of the northeast 1-4 of Section 14. The Sargeants have always owned this farm since then but have not always lived there, although they have never lived very far away. Henry Butt, W. H. Montgomery and Jacob Lorange each came to the township in the early fifties.

So far as we know Mr. W. G. Sargeant and Dr. J. R. Bedford are the only old soldiers of the Civil War who are living in the township at this time.

The people of Persifer are mostly prosperous and happy. They are situated on the main line of the A. T. & S. F. R. R., having a direct route to the Chicago market for their produce. They have good homes and are pretty well fixed as to this world's goods. Nearly all have some kind of a motor vehicle and some of them have two or three of them. They always went over to top when it came to Liberty loans and Red Cross and all other forms of war work and they also furnished their full quota of men to face the German bullets.

One of Persifer's boys, a son of N. I. Cherrington, was one of the first Knox county boys to give his life for his country in France.

Not in the road of the cannon,
Not in the roll of the drum,
But with love and honor in our hearts,
Let their requiem be sung.

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. MILES.

HISTORY OF RIO TOWNSHIP

By Heber Gillis

Joseph Rowe is acknowledged as the first man to settle in Rio township. He built some sort of a house, the first one a white man put up in the township, but his future is lost to the history of Rio.

Some squatters made temporary light camp stops in the early 20's at Rio, and a family that had built a cabin on the slope of Pope Creek near where the State Aid Road now crosses had their house burn in the late thirties while they were at the fort at the Snodgrass house near Henderson on the McMurtry farm.

John McMurtry, whose daughter was the first white woman to be buried in Rio, came from Kentucky by way of Indiana to Section 33 in 1829. He served as a soldier in the Black Hawk War. His descendants occupy a large space of farming land near North Henderson; the Piatts of Galesburg, together with the Heflins of Rio, are among those now living.

In 1833 Reece, Sam and James Jones likewise came from Kentucky. Both Kentucky families brought good oxen and horse teams with them and also drove in good loose animals of all kinds. Reece Jones permanently settled in a home, defended it from the Indians, and when they burned one cabin he built another better than before. He educated his family in the best schools of that day within his reach, and they moved socially in the best circles in the state. The Jones family built the first school house in Rio township, aided by the subscriptions of other settlers in labor and money. A Miss Jones was the first teacher.

In the early thirties Erasmus Hall settled on Pope Creek, where he operated a saw mill. Noted Indians called at his home and the trader Le Claire was an acquaintance of his. Hall's Ford was on the trail from Peoria to Rock Island as was also Bruner's cabin near the southeast part of the township.

Bennet Fleharty came to Section 6 just west of the Jones family in 1834. He afterwards kept a store on his farm where Fred Anderson now lives.

Geo. Simms settled about the same time as Fleharty on Section 6 in Rio, and Section 1 in North Henderson township, Mercer county, building his house, which consisted of one large room, with one end of it in Rio, Knox county, and the other in Mercer county. At dances held here it was not uncommon to have the music in one county and the dancing in the other. When marriages were solemnized in this house, care was taken

to have the bride and groom stand well over in the county that issued the license. Mr. Simms gave public addresses to the older people on the subject of slavery, outlining the history of the Rebellion in advance, and made quite good guesses concerning the result.

Joseph Hahn came from Pennsylvania in 1835 and settled in Section 33 on a farm extending from the south line of the township to the center, much of the way one mile wide. It sloped gently to the south and was a most excellent farm with good drainage, fine soil, good timber and was close to the store of Goff, the Baptist church, and the second school house built in the township. All of these public buildings Hahn assisted in building and maintaining. He had served in the War of 1812 and was well fitted to engage in pioneer enterprises.

About this same time Mr. Westfall came to Section 6. The year 1835 also marks the advent of several other Rio pioneers. Pedro Epperson and his brother, Edly, settled on the section south of Westfall. Their brother-in-law, the father of Dr. John N. Cox, came in the fall of that year, but soon moved to some very good farm land near Old Oxford, where he spent the greater portion of his life. During the Civil War he was given a commission by Governor Yates. Pedro Epperson, a man of great energy, soon had good buildings and fences. Immediately after locating he made a large rail crib like a house and was able to entertain his sister and her family royally. While the Jones and McMurtry families were forward in school building, the Simms and Epperson families did their share in maintaining same. Pedro Epperson and his descendants are reputed to have owned at times a strip of six sections a mile wide across the township.

Geo. W. Weir built a flat-boat and floated down the Mississippi River to New Boston in 1835, where he chopped wood for the original Drury of that place. In the winter of that year being in need of bacon he walked to the home of the original Jones family in Rio township. On his return trip with the bacon on his back, the wolves bothered him considerably. As a result of this trip to Rio he hired to Sam Jones for \$3.00 a month and stayed two or three years. As part of his pay he took a pair of steers and some wheat, putting the latter in a rail pen chinked with straw. Two or three years later he drove the steers to Milan and traded the wheat for log chains. He also acquired another breaking team of oxen. Mr. Weir lived to be over ninety years of age.

In 1835 Isaac M. Wetmore came to Rio with John Wycoff on horse-back by way of Chicago where he partly bargained for 160 acres of land. Later he relinquished it for more tillable land on the Rio and Ontario line. Dearborn St. is on the Chicago land which he contemplated buying or is a boundary

of it. Mr. Wetmore ran a store in Rio on the slope south of the Washington school house and afterward established a very fine farm on both sides of the township line with extra fine buildings on the Ontario side of the line.

In 1835 Michael Bruner drove a pair of oxen from Breckenridge county, Kentucky, to Rio, bringing his wife and young family. Later Mrs. Bruner died. In 1839 he drove a pair of oxen to the same place in Kentucky and brought a second wife, his father, Adam Bruner, and his uncle, Peter Bruner, with him to Rio. Both the elder Bruners had spent long years preaching the gospel. They with their two brothers had served in the Revolutionary War and all four were later buried in a cemetery on the Bruner farm. Knox county now owns this site and has erected a monument to their memory. The Bruner farm in 1850 had a licensed tavern upon it and possessed unusual buildings for that day. It was on the trail from Peoria to Rock Island and during the Civil War fruit from its fine orchard sold for \$50 per tree on the stem.

About this time Michael Loveridge, an English educated veterinary, settled about one mile west of Joseph Hahn. He was a useful and highly respected man in this community, preaching the plain truth of the gospel in a fearless manner during the forties and up to 1862, when he moved to Oregon. Hahn, Loveridge, the Deatherages and Lewis Goff built the second school house in the township, also a Baptist church which, with the store of Goff's, made the south central part of the township quite a public settlement.

Samuel Brown came about this time to the west of these and is the only one of this group now living, being more than ninety years of age.

Soon the Woodman's, the Larkin Robertson family, the two Coe's, Lewis and Nelson, with Benjamin Harvey and Luther Fitch, settled more centrally in Rio township.

John D. Bartlett and family came in 1842. Wm. Dailey, James Hinchliff, Philip Prior and David Woodman built near the center, with Wm. Barnard a little farther north.

The first period when the very early settlers came was a ranch life. Cattle and hogs ran loose on the open prairie. The small grain fields were fenced. A law of "common field" prevailed; everybody gathered his corn and the cattle were turned on the fenced section to feed at will. Later, as the farms were cultivated, the law caused the stock to be taken from the highways and no open prairie grass was left. The cows that the early settlers brought were good stock. The Kentucky settlers later brought fine beef sires.

The pioneer traveled in wagons, on horse-back, and on foot.

He was wont to stop at the nearest house for dinner or lodging and was always welcome. He brought the news of his locality and they told him of their affairs so that he was a medium of intelligence at his next stopping place. The amusements were dances, foot races, ball games, horse races, military training etc. There were no more capable men at caring for their affairs than the first settlers. They met every emergency. They fed, clothed, nursed and buried their neighbors with their own hands. A common bond bound the various settlements together. The pioneers in the forties lived in substantial log houses. About all the money they could spare was for door latches and "trimming salt," which was scarce. Health failed without it, and expeditions were planned to get it.

Many interesting things could be related concerning the early pioneers. A. J. Streeter herded some cattle in the central part of Rio township and watered them at the Collins spring. Later he was nominated for President of the United States on the National ticket. Quite a number of his planks came to be beams and stringers in suggesting improvement of the present national policy.

Frank Hickley and Peter McCartner, Jr., also herded cattle and drove them to the same spring. The former one day walked into a railroad auction sale, bid off an entire railroad, and paid cash for it. The latter after quitting the cattle industry engraved some fine greenbacks which the United States treasury afterward unwittingly accepted as genuine.

In the early fifties Robson Bros. establish a cash corn market of large proportions. It gave an outlet for more corn and made it easier for the settlers to pay for land. During the years when Rio had no railroad facilities this cash market contributed greatly to the community's prosperity.

Before the Township Organization Act, citizens of Rio and Ontario voted in Ontario. Later Rio Settlement was a part of the political unit of Ontario. Squire Mosher of Ontario was territorial judge while the two were one unit. Reuben Heflin, Samuel Brown, John Robson, Samuel May, John Wycoff, Robert Deatherage and James Deatherage have all voted in the territory of Ontario.

The first Civil War Veteran was Abner Titus.

In 1870 the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis Railroad came to the east township of Mercer county on the way to Rock Island with no charter to enter Knox county. Pope Creek is a deep stream and tributaries run northwest in east Mercer county. Rio township had a better crossing. In Knox county, it was then lawful to vote aids to railroads. The convention to frame a new state constitution was in session. The railroad wanted aid to build a right-of-way without condemnation. It

was expected the new constitution would forbid voting aid to railroads. The town was nearly evenly divided before voting aid but the affirmative gained during the canvassing and Rio bought its share of the improvements. This resulted in locating the road from Monmouth to Rio and on to Rock Island, and later the connecting line from Galesburg to Rio was built, giving the township plenty of transportation. In getting the right-of-way near Pope Creek the full value of the land for the entire farm was paid to the owner and only one hundred feet wide was taken.

Some of the more or less prominent men about this time include the following: S. W. May, who invented and defended his invention in court of the May windmill, now owned and manufactured by his niece, Miss Duwaine Phymister, of Chicago, at her factory in Galesburg; Robson Bros., William, John and Robert, who handled most of the fat cattle raised just before and during the Civil War from Rio and New Boston; Chas. Bryant, kinsman of the noted poet by that name, and himself a writer of poetry; F. A. Landon, Sr., adept in verbal squibs; David B. Woodman, the largest man in Knox county, who ran fifty yards in record time, beating a sprinting stranger who bantered him.

No less interested in the progress of the community and active in all forward-looking enterprises was Heber Gillis, who, with his brother, Theodore, came to Rio township on Christmas, 1856. Their father, Dr. Geo. Gillis, followed them in the fall of 1859.

Hall, Heflin, and Edw. Crain, together with the elder Deatherage, sawed the lumber for the first frame house.

Benjamin Harvey was a pioneer thresher, going as far as Rock Island in a fall and winter run. The grain was torn from the straw. Men pitched it away and later separated the grain from the chaff and cockle burrs with fanning mills. Some boys left home for California after turning the mill one season.

Samuel Brown, Harrison Shannon, Reuben Heflin and Thomas Jones were among the early officers of the township, both as supervisors and as justices of the peace. Robert Deatherage, Gilbert Wetmore, Benjamin Harvey, James Mansfield and F. M. Epperson have been justices of the peace for long terms. B. E. Frankenberger now occupies that position also.

The Black Hawk War, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish War, and now the most uncalled for slaughter of men ever known—all have called for many of our best men and women, in some cases whole families responding.

The original prairie was called wet. The subsoil held water

often too long during wet seasons. The ground often baked before it could be cultivated. Tile drains are now used freely and little trouble is experienced from the extremes of wet and dry. Large sums of money are buried out of sight in tile, but they are permanent improvements, being just as good as when laid forty years ago. Progressive farmers still think that a larger outlet would prevent a cold, slow growth of corn as in 1917. Hog disease has been conquered largely. Tuberculosis cattle are being weeded out. Horses are larger and better for farming. Roads are better. The man power is much greater than fifty years ago. Many plows have passed the experimental stage. One man handles twice as many horses as then. Planters approach perfection; binders work like clocks. Grain separators are wonders as compared with those of years ago. Much money has been spent in improving stock and grain, and the results are plain to be seen.

Rio township is the home of some fine thoroughbred stock, especially cattle. That one herd of Shorthorns was selected with intelligent care is revealed by the fact that they are descendants of tribes originated and bred by such famed Aberdeenshire breeders as Cuickshank, Duthie, Campbell and Lord Lovat and the present generation is the product of sires and dams of America's best. Four are daughters of the great sire Lord Avondale, a bull which sold for five thousand dollars at auction in 1916 and is now conceded to be one of the most successful of the breed. Others are by Sultan Goods of the "Sultan" tribe, Challenge Victor, the Dutchman, a grandson of the St. Louis World's Fair champion, Choice Goods, White Gloster by Fair Acres Sultan, Baron Kerr II, Lucky Pride II, a grand-grandson of The Lad for Me, Glen View, Dale III, by the famous sire, Avondale. Revealing as this does unusual strength of blood through the sires, many of the dams too are equally attractive and have a record as producers that stands high; for instance, the cow Lucky Clari produced a bull that was purchased by Francisco Maissa for shipment to the Argentine and a calf from Verbena Lass has found a home in the herd owned by Dr. Rabey, Gatesville, Texas. Two well bred bulls, Bud Avondale, by Lord Avondale; and Challenge Victor, by Challenge Mysie, are samples of the high-bred stock to be found in Rio township. Illinois is richer because of this select collection of the breed for the reason that permanent agriculture and soil improvement go hand in hand with live stock production.

The schools of Rio township are of the district grade. There are two churches in the community, the Methodist and Congregational, Rev. Glen A. Rowles being the resident pastor of the latter.

Rio has a railroad junction with unusually good train service, a fine bank building, and other improvements. In 1917 the road tax amounted to \$19,000. Three hundred and eighty-two autos assist transportation. The township as a whole is prosperous and progressive in every way.

SALEM TOWNSHIP

From Sketch by L. A. Lawrence

Salem lies in the southeast corner of Knox County and is bounded on the east by Peoria County and on the south by Fulton county. There are only a few townships that have as fine physical features or as marked beauty of outline as this. Commencing at a point known as Kent's Mound, on Section 12, which rises forty or fifty feet above the common level, a somewhat irregular ridge, sometimes called "divide," runs through the entire township, from east to west, taking the name of Pease Hill in its center and terminating at Uniontown, on Section 13, at its extreme western edge.

Salem was organized under the general law relating to townships on April 5, 1853, by an election held in a log school house near Michael Egan's home, on Section 20. S. S. Buffum was chosen Supervisor; William Gray, Clerk; J. E. Knable, Assessor; D. Waldo, Collector; T. A. Croy, G. W. Euke and J. Jordan, Justices; M. B. Mason, A. Kent and J. E. Duel, Highway Commissioners; J. Taylor and D. Waldo, Constables, and G. Christman, Overseer of the Poor.

John Sloan has been the supervisor most frequently re-elected, having served eight terms of one year each, at different periods, and others of from one year to three years.

The first settlement was made by Alexander Taylor, on the northeast quarter of Section 6, in October, 1834. He was soon followed by Felix and John Thurman, Henry and Avery Dalton, Solomon Sherwood, Benoni Hawkins, William Kent, John Darnell, John Haskins and Sala Blakesbee, most of whom brought their families with them.

The first birth recorded was that of little Laura, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Haskins, in 1835, and the first to be joined in wedlock were Avery and Delilah Dalton, cousins, who were married in 1855, by Squire Mark Thurman. The same year occurred the first death, that of Andrew Corbin.

The early settlers brought their religious faith and practice with them and held prayer meetings from time to time at convenient places. Their pious devotion attracted the attention of Rev. Henry Somers, who visited the settlement in November, 1835 or '36, and preached the first sermon at the home of William Kent, on Section 13.

The first saw mill was built by James Mason on Kickapoo Creek, in Section 13, in 1835 or '36; another, a little later, by Anderson Corbin, on the same stream, on Section 14.

The people of Salem have shown an enlightened public spirit in the matter of good highways, and have provided a

system of good, substantial, iron bridges, set upon firm stone abutments, over all the principal streams with stone culverts over most of the smaller ones. The question of constructing, grading and repairing the highways, was many years ago, by vote, left solely to the discretion of the highway commissioners. The result has been a uniform system of grading, which with thoroughly underdraining, affords the best roads obtainable on prairie soil without resort to the Macadam process.

Salem has an abundant supply of bituminous coal, which has been mined for local use from an early date along the banks of the streams skirting the north and south sides of the township. The most productive mines are found along the Kickapoo and Littler's Creeks. The first mining of which any record had been preserved was successfully undertaken by Pittman and Barlow, blacksmiths, of Farmington, Fulton county, who, in 1832, took coal from the soil of Section 25, for use in their own forges. Avery Dalton was the first to mine to any appreciable extent for commercial purposes. He began operations on the same section three years later. Several drillings at Yates City have developed extensive and valuable veins, at depths varying from one hundred and twenty-five feet upward.

Not the least important among the industries which have helped to elevate Salem Township to its present position among the foremost in the county is that of stock-growing. Many of the most progressive farmers make the breeding of improved varieties a special feature of their farm work. Among the prominent stock raisers may be named: N. G. Daughmer and Son, D. Corey and Son, J. M. Corey, H. A. and James Sloan, E. H. Ware, Frank Runyon, A. D. Moore and R. J. McKeighan. The efforts of these men and others who might be mentioned have resulted in elevating the standard established for fine stock to as high a point in Salem as will be found in the best farming sections of the State.

There are ten school districts in Salem, numbered in order to the ninth, the tenth being called Center. The last named is located on School Section 16. Of the ten school buildings, two, in Districts 3 and 4 are of brick, the others are frame. The first school house was located on Section 13, in 1838, in what is now District No. 1, and the first school was taught by Abiel Drew. The second school was erected in either the same or the succeeding year, on the southwest quarter of Section 6. It was of logs, and had been originally put up by James Hogue for a dwelling. Section 6 now forms a part of District No. 2. Of the ten schools, only the one in Yates City is graded.

Every school in Salem has the benefit of a library of

greater or lesser size and value, which owe their origin to W. L. Steele and the history of their establishment may be told in a few words. In September, 1878, Mr. Steele, then Principal of a graded school in Yates City, proposed to the School Board, composed of Dr. J. D. Holt, J. M. Taylor and L. A. Lawrence, the organization of a school and public library, to be under the control of the board, and open at all times to pupils of the schools, and to the pupils upon payment of a membership fee. The scheme also contemplated the solicitation of donations of books and money. The plan was adopted. The movement commanded public support from the first, and the library has now grown to large dimensions and is one of the best in the State for a community of that size.

In the Civil War 182 served from this township. One hundred and fifty-one served in various regiments of infantry, numbered from the Seventh to the One Hundred and Thirty-second. Forty-five were attached to the Eighty-third, and Twenty-eight in the Seventy-seventh. Twenty-nine are credited as having served in the Seventh, Eleventh, Twelfth and Fourteenth Cavalry, and two in the Second Illinois Artillery. In addition, several are known to have enlisted in regiments from other states, notably in the Eighth Missouri Infantry, viz.; William S. Kleckner, Frank Murphy, Frank and Fred Hamilton, Henry Ledgerman, James Dundas, Chester Vickery, George Frost, William Hull, William Taylor and William Reed, besides, probably others, many of whom have never been credited, either to Knox County or to Salem Township. James H. Walton was probably the first enlisted man from Salem, having joined the Seventh Infantry from Yates City, which was the first regiment organized in 1861. A draft was ordered to complete Salem's quota under the last call for men in 1864, and four names were drawn.

Salem's record in the war with Spain, 1898, is an extraordinary one, the township having furnished fourteen men out of a possible one hundred and fifty for the whole county, the most of whom served in Company C, of the Sixth Infantry. The Mexican War of 1846 had one representative here, in the person of R. B. Corbin, who served in the Third United States Dragoons.

In 1837 a postoffice was established, called Middle Grove, near what was later Uniontown, Henry Merrell being placed in charge. It is said that Thomas Morse offered a whole day's labor to secure a letter on which the postage had not been paid, money being then very scarce, but his offer was refused.

Sala Blakesbee is credited with erecting the first frame building for a barn, in 1837, on Section 19, but it was destroyed by fire the same year.

The scales of justice were first held by William Davis in 1836.

The underground railroad had a well defined "route" through Salem in ante-bellum days, and many a poor slave, fleeing for life and liberty had occasion to thank the "officers" thereof for their active vigilance in his behalf.

The moral and religious advancement of the people has kept even pace with their material development, as is shown by their work in the early churches and in kindred societies. In early days, preaching services were held in School houses, and all convenient places.

In Salem township are Uniontown, Douglas and Yates City, and it is in the last named that the famous Harvest Home festival, first held in 1886, is annually celebrated.

The township also made a notable record in the late World War.

SPARTA TOWNSHIP

From Sketch by E. H. Goldsmith

This township was organized April 5, 1853, at the home of Thomas H. Taylor, on Section 14, and the following town officers were elected: T. H. Taylor, Supervisor; Asaph DeLong Clerk; Stephen Smith, Assessor; Charles R. Rhodes, Collector; D. Reed, Stephen Russell and Peter Davis, Highway Commissioners; Moran Baker and Hugh Ferguson, Justices of the Peace, and Marshall P. DeLong, Constable. Mr. DeLong afterwards served the town as Justice of the Peace for twenty-five years. S. G. Dean served eight years, and John J. Sutor for a number of years. William Robson served long continuously as supervisor.

While Hezekiah Buford has the credit of being the first settler by building on Section 23, in 1834, the Wilmots have a record for longest continuous residence on the same land, for Amos Wilmot built a log cabin in June, 1836, on Section 6, in which he lived for fifteen years. He then built a house, where he lived until his death in 1878. Very soon after his arrival came Reuben, Cyrus and Edward Robbins, brothers, and Levi Roberts, a cousin. The first of these was about the last of the early settlers. To him we are indebted for some of the information given in this sketch. From the fact that Levi Robbins having raised a large orchard and other trees "Robbins' Grove" was for many years a noted land-mark and people came long distances for apples, as well as to hold picnics. In 1836, Asaph DeLong (who built the first house between Knoxville and Heath timber), Luman Field and William Heath settled on Section 31. The latter was married at Knoxville to Lucinda Field in 1837, and "hung up" housekeeping in their log cabin, a picture of which is still preserved. In a northeast direction they had but one neighbor nearer than Victoria. Mrs. Heath was a member of the society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, she being a granddaughter of Elisha Field, Jr., and a great granddaughter of Elisha Field, Sr., both of whom fought in the Revolutionary war. She possessed papers showing the entire war history of her illustrious ancestors. Her grandchildren presented her with the badge of the society, which is an old-fashioned spinning wheel with beautiful surroundings and inscriptions.

James Neely settled on Section 30 in 1838, and Abram Neely on Section 5 a few years later. Other early settlers were: B. Ely, Thomas and George W. Faulkner, Booker Pickrel and C. C. West. Among those who came subsequently and who, with those already mentioned, as well as those who will be noticed hereafter, have been influential in the political and

religious prosperity of the township, are Solomon Lyon, J. V. R. Carley, Schuyler Goldsmith, A. F. Adams, William E. Morse, Henry Rommel, L. W. Olson, Oliver Stream, Joseph Masters, J. H. Merrill, James Paddock, Edmund Kennedy, James Barry, William S. Patterson, William A. Lee, Jr., D. W. Nisley, R. W. Hulse, Vickrey Nation, Ransom Babcock, F. Z. Wikoff, G. S. Hawkins and John Taylor. The latter was assessor for over 30 years.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy passes through Sparta in a diagonal line from near the northeast to the southwest corner. In November 1894, the Galesburg, Etherly and Great Eastern Railroad was opened, running twelve miles east, to strike a great coal belt of some eighty-two sections, the center of which is Etherly, where the company placed a shaft costing \$30,000. This company suspended railroad operations on September 7, 1895, but resumed December 7, 1897, under the name of the Galesburg and Great Eastern, with Edward J. Harms as manager.

Prairie fires in early days were beautiful to witness and oftentimes to be dreaded. At one time a fire which is said to have started at Red Oak in Henry county, threatened to devastate the farms of the new settlers, but warning was given those in the southwest part of the township by Maria, daughter of Luman Field, in time to avert the approaching catastrophe.

Sparta, both before and during the Civil War, contained quite a number of abolitionists, among them was Abram Neely, a conductor on the underground railroad. Some of the old citizens still remember his hiding fugitive slaves at his home and taking them a night's ride to the next station.

The population of Sparta township has been: 1840, 113; 1870, 1,950; 1800, 1,682; 1890, 1,293. For later figures see elsewhere.

Wataga

Wataga was platted in the Spring of 1854 by J. M. Holyoke, Silas Willard and Clark M. Carr, and was incorporated by a special act in 1863. The first village election was held September 19, 1863. In 1874 it was re-incorporated, under the general law, with Section 16 as the village territory. J. M. Holyoke was the first resident and postmaster, and also built the first store in conjunction with A. P. Cassel. This was operated by Willard and Babcock. The first bank in the place was started in 1863 by H. P. Wood. The depot was built in 1856, and in the same year the Wataga House was erected and operated by Garrett Post for one year, when Loren Smith bought and conducted it for one year, and for years it was the

property of C. H. Norton. The Wataga mill was built by William Armstrong in 1856, and soon afterwards was damaged by an explosion in which John Armstrong was seriously injured. George F. and David P. Niles, now extensive farmers and fine stock-raisers, bought the mill in May, 1867, and ran it very successfully for eight years, patrons coming long distances with their own wheat and receiving entire satisfaction. Among those who have since owned the mill are: William and M. O. Williamson, who introduced expensive modern machinery and Frank Darst, who also put in improvements and did excellent work.

The First Congregational Church was organized June 10, 1855, and the church society October 27, 1856. The church organization was led by the Rev. S. G. Wright. The first meeting was held in the depot, where the first sermon was preached. Subsequent services were held in the newly completed school house until 1860, when a substantial church, costing over \$3,000, was erected, to which in 1876, a parsonage was added at a cost of \$2,000. The original members were: A. P. Babcock, William S. Farnham, Mrs. Maria S. Farnham, Mrs. C. F. Farnsworth, Benjamin Gardner, Mrs. Abigail Gardner, Miss Sarah Gardner, Mrs. Minerva Holyoke, Charles W. Rhodes and Mrs. Jane Rhodes. Wm. S. Farnham served as deacon for 30 years. James Hastie also served as deacon until his demise in 1879 and was succeeded by Amos S. Fitch, the latter holding the office until his death in 1882. Among the secretaries of the society have been Hon. John Gray, of Jefferson Iowa; the late J. M. Holyoke and E. H. Goldsmith, the latter of whom held that office twenty-four years and was church clerk for thirty years. This church has had many pastors. Among those who have faithfully served in that capacity may be mentioned the Revs. Azariah Hyde, William W. Wetmore, Hiram P. Roberts, Prof. Willis J. Beecher, of Auburn (New York) Theological Seminary, and William R. Butcher, the last named serving six years. The Sunday school records show that on December 26, 1869, the membership was two hundred and the average attendance one hundred and forty-eight. John Hastie was the secretary and E. H. Goldsmith the superintendent, the latter holding that office for twenty-five years. The late George P. Holyoke and William M. Driggs, with their wives rendered valuable assistance in former years.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1856 by the Rev. William M. Clark, whose circuit consisted of Oneida, Wesley Chapel and Wataga. He made his journeys on foot. Mr. Clark gave the site of Gilson camp ground to this district. Among the early members were S. F. Spaulding, John Gaddis, B. W. Foster, Lucius Vail and S. G. Dean, with their wives. Mr. Dean was the first Sunday school superintendent,

serving four years, and he was succeeded by S. F. Spaulding who, for nineteen years, gave his best services to the school. Among the pastors were: G. W. Brown, N. T. Allen, William Watson, D. Ayers, N. G. Clark, G. P. Snedaker and C. F. W. Smith. The church was completed and dedicated in 1867 under the pastorate of J. W. Coe, the presiding elder being W. H. Hunter.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1856, the first pastor being the Rev. T. N. Hasselquist. In 1860 the society commenced building a church, having formerly worshipped in private houses and school buildings. This church was struck by lightning and burned in 1875, but in the same year the present tasteful edifice was erected. The Rev. N. Nordgren, served this people many years.

The Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1857 with the Rev. V. Witting as the pastor. The keeping up of regular services and of the Sunday School was largely due to the untiring efforts of Oliver Stream.

The Wataga Christian church, costing \$2,000, was erected in 1875, but was torn down in 1896 and the church organization no longer exists.

The Wataga Catholic Church was erected in 1877 at a cost of \$2,000. The Rev. P. McGair was its first pastor.

Wataga Iodge, No. 291, A. F. and A. M., was instituted August 17, 1858.

The Order of the Eastern Star was organized February 22, 1888, and being the first chapter in the county it had many members from the surrounding towns, there being at one time seventy-four names on the roll. Other chapters were organized in every town from which this drew its followers.

Wataga Lodge, No. 509, I. O. O. F., was organized January 10, 1876, by A. W. Berggren. Its first officers were: W. N. Thomas, N. G.; J. E. Thomas, V. G.; L. C. Whitcomb, Secretary; P. A. Smith, Treasurer. Other charter members were P. A. Smith and John McConchie.

Rebecca Lodge, No. 48 was organized October 20, 1891. The first officers were: John Deming; N. G.; Mrs. Nancy Deming, C. G.; Oliver Stream, Secretary.

Wataga Camp, No. 3229, Modern Woodmen, was organized September 24, 1895, with eighteen charter members.

TRURO TOWNSHIP

By David Cation

Next to Persifer, this is the roughest township in Knox County. Spoon River enters it in Section 12 and flows out from Section 31, winding through it for fifteen or sixteen miles and touching sixteen sections. This river and its branches, which liberally water Truro, pass through timber land which formerly extended over half the township. Of late years, however, almost all of this vast timber has been gradually disappearing, the land on which it stood having been converted into almost treeless pastures, which have proved a source of greater profit. North of Spoon River, the land is mostly rolling, on the south stretches a broad level, fertile prairie. About one-sixth of the township is underlaid with a good quality of coal which with the timber affords an excellent supply of fuel.

The first settlement was made on Section 19, in 1832, by John Dill. The first birth was that of Andrew Dill, in 1833. During that year Rev. John Cummings performed the first marriage ceremony, uniting Jake Ryan and Miss Stambaugh. In 1832, within Section 30, Malon Winans, a United States mail carrier, was drowned while attempting to swim Spoon River with a mail bag strapped to his back. This was the first death. Within this same section, in 1834, John Coleman started a ferry across Spoon River, at a point which was long known as Coleman's Ferry, but afterwards came to be called Trenton. Here the first postoffice was established during the same year.

On the northwest quarter of Section 31, the first white settlers found a number of Indian graves. Logs had been split into halves and hollowed out for coffins, and these were placed in the forks of trees, where they rested, with their ghastly human skeletons projecting above their tops. In 1836, pioneers took them down and gave them "white man's burial."

In 1834, Rev. John Cummings preached the first sermon at the home of Widow Lambert, on Section 31. The first school house was built in 1848, on Section 33.

Rensselaer Johnson was the first Justice of the Peace.

April 5, 1853, the township was organized. The first election of officers resulted in the choice of the following persons: Augustus Lapham, Supervisor; J. P. Cadwell, Clerk; Benjamin Sweat, Assessor; Levi Seward, Collector; Thomas Ross, Overseer of the Poor; Thomas Crawford, Luther Rice and Joseph Wilder, Highway Commissioners; Thomas Ross

and Joseph Oberholtzer, Justices of the Peace.

The population in 1860 was seven hundred and thirteen. in 1870, eight hundred and ninety-nine; in 1880, seven hundred and seventeen; in 1890, eight hundred and sixty-five. For present population, see the population table for county.

Truro township is inhabited by prosperous farmers. The land is well tilled, and dotting the pastures are herds of well-bred hogs, horses, sheep and cattle. The farms are well improved, and the people contented and happy.

The population is composed chiefly of American born citizens of English, Irish, Scotch and Swedish ancestry. The hardy pioneers are fast passing away, but they have left energetic and intelligent descendants. Although thus sprung from various stocks, they are all intensely American in their patriotism. Adorning the walls of their homes are to be found not only the portraits of the heroes of their Fatherland, of whom they are justly proud, but also those of Washington, Lincoln and other eminent Americans, who hold no second place in their affections.

Here also is found a generous religious tolerance, Protestant and Catholic joining in advancing charitable and educational enterprises. In such perfect assimilation of different nationalities, and in such broad charity in the matter of religious faith as are found here, lies one of the strongest guarantees of the future grandeur and perpetuity of our country.

Williamsfield.

Until 1887, Truro was without a railway. In May of that year ground was broken on the farm of Henry German in Section 21 for the main line of the Santa Fe which was laid across the township, and on April 24, 1888, Williamsfield was laid out by E. B. Purcell, on Section 23. Later, Galesburg capitalists interested themselves in the project and promoted it with so much vigor that within thirty-three years the town has become one of the most prosperous in the county, and now boasts of about five hundred inhabitants. There is a graded school, employing from three to four teachers since the completion of the school building in 1890.

A Methodist church was erected early in 1890, under the leadership of Rev. John Gunson, and dedicated on the first day of June of that year. In 1906, the building was remodeled under the leadership of Rev. Franklin Rist and the denomination has a good membership. Two years later the Catholics erected an attractive house of worship.

The Williamsfield Times, an independent weekly, was established in 1889. Its founder was C. D. Benfield. In Octo-

ber, 1890, the building in which the Times was located was burned and Mr. Benfield lost his entire outfit. The subscription list of the paper was purchased by Momeny and Benson and in a few months they were enabled to continue the publication. Later they dissolved partnership and J. M. Momeny assumed control of the paper. In the fall of 1892 S. E. Bog-gess leased the plant from Mr. Momeny. In April, 1893, it was purchased by M. Hugh Irish and in July, 1918, it passed into the hands of W. G. Johnson the present owner.

On January 22, 1890, L. J. Baird and David Cation opened a private bank under the title of Bank of Williamsfield and so conducted it until April, 1908, when they with Earl T. Main reorganized the Bank under a State Charter in the name of First State Bank Company with a capital stock of \$30,000.00 with L. J. Baird as first president. Earl T. Main was first cashier. The first board of directors was L. J. Baird, David Cation, Earl T. Main, G. W. Wallick, J. D. Doubet, Geo. W. Elliott and H. J. Butts. The bank has had a steady growth and a loyal patronage from the community. In addition to its semi-annual dividends paid the stockholders the bank has added \$30,000 of surplus and profits to its capital. It has also recently installed a new burglar proof safe and a burglar proof vault that is said to be second to none in the county at a cost of \$7,500.00. The present officers and directors are: David Cation, President; Jay Welsh, Vice President; William Cation, Cashier; Miss Doris Pulver, Asst. Cashier, and Miss Marita Smith, Asst. Cashier; J. J. Nelson, P. A. Sunwall, Burt Hurlbutt and Richard Murphy.

Various lines of mercantile business are well represented such as general stores, hardware store, meat market, lumber yards, undertaking establishment, restaurant, barber shops, blacksmith shop and dry goods and millinery stores, physicians and veterinaries. It has also a grain elevator and has always been a great center for the shipment of grain and live stock. Recently there was organized a Williamsfield Live Stock Shipping Association with a membership of about one hundred. Its officers and directors were A. L. Doubet, President; A. W. Gale, Vice President, B. L. Baird, Sec.-Treas.; Taylor B. Johnston and Jas. L. Cation, Directors, and L. L. Nelson, Manager. Under Mr. Nelson's leadership more than 120 cars the last year have been sent out from Williamsfield, amounting in value to \$292,000.00. This excels any other point in the county.

In September, 1897, Williamsfield suffered a disastrous fire in which a livery barn, two general stores, hardware store, two blacksmith shops, lumber yard, paint and wall paper store, harness shop, two doctor's offices, and one resi-

dence were all swept out of existence. From this catastrophe the village soon emerged with better business houses and better equipped to provide for the wants of the community in the several kinds of business represented.

Again in Sept. 1920, more than twenty business houses in the heart of the business district were swept out by fire. But the populace is not to be outdone for within a short time foundations were laid for 3 new brick buildings and other brick buildings are being contemplated.

World's War

The list of enlisted men in the army was: Glen Cole, John O'Brien, Cecil Kimler, Roscoe Gibson, Dale Stemple, C. W. German, Clyde Tucker, Ernest Hart, Bert Daniels, Isidore Daub, Fred Shultz, Grover George, Clyde Huber, Eldred Mackie, Julius Shaw, Harrison Cole, Patsy O'Hern, Wiley Burch, Sidney Cook, James Mahar, Albert King, Vance Chambers, Frank Stodgel, Vergil Dudley, Raymond Wall, Lloyd Harmison, Edward Larsen, Harley Tucker, Harry Bennett, Homer Larson, Harry L. Gibson, Arthur Carrigan, Edward D. Parker, Harley Benjamin, Michael Phelan, Clarence Spencer, David Tucker, James Larsen, Harry Harmison and James H. German.

Of these soldier boys, John O'Brien and Grover George were gassed.

C. W. German, Lloyd Harmison and Homer Larson narrowly escaped with their lives from the sinking vessel, "Otranto," on the coast of Scotland.

All of our boys returned home. Vance Chambers re-enlisted and returned to service in Germany where he was shot and killed while on duty.

The Neighborhood Committee through whom most of the war activities were carried forward were as follows:

Executive Committee—G. E. Morgan, Chairman; M. H. Irish, Secretary; J. M. Baird, C. H. Pulver, S. R. Tucker, David Cation.

District Committeemen—Fred Hurlbutt, T. Johnston, John Mackie, C. D. Rice, A. W. Gales, W. —. Huber, E. D. Johnston, R. W. Morgan, Jay Welsh, Geo. King, W. S. Potts, W. H. Machin, G. L. Doubet, L. L. Nelson, P. A. Sunwall, E. S. Willard.

Mrs. Nellie J. Tucker, Mrs. Rhoda Philbrook, Mrs. Celesta C. Potts, E. S. Moon, C. A. Caldwell and C. H. Pulver made up the registration board on the bond subscriptions.

While very many did much to assist in the war work, it is fitting and proper that special mention should be made of

the very tedious, very exacting and responsible work done by Miss Marita Smith in accounting for the many hundreds of pieces of bonds amounting to more than half a million dollars.

Truro township went over the top on every quota asked and in one case carried off the German helmet for being the second township in the county to report.

	Subscribers	Totals
First Loan -----	1-----	\$ 6,000.00
Second Loan -----	118-----	42,300.00
Third Loan -----	262-----	46,000.00
Fourth Loan -----	282-----	54,150.00
Victory Loan -----	82-----	52,050.00
War Savings Stamps -----	189-----	24,000.00
Grand Total -----		<hr/> \$224,400.00

Red Cross Drives

First drive -----	\$1,079.43
Second—Sale -----	1,880.35
Third—Membership -----	397.00
Fourth—Memberships -----	358.50
Fifth—Membership -----	250.00
	<hr/> \$4,075.28
Salvation Army -----	126.40
	<hr/>
United War Workers Campaign -----	\$2,180.00
Grand Total -----	<hr/> \$6,381.68

The Williamsfield Branch Red Cross Association was organized Sunday evening, April 22, 1917, as follows:

G. E. Morgan was elected General Chairman.

Rev. J. W. Pruen, Secretary.

David Cation, local Treasurer.

More than 250 members were secured.

Red Cross Shop

Mrs. Rev. Pruen was the first Chairman and afterwards resigned and Mrs. Dr. Cole was elected and carried the work through to the end.

Mrs. Ida Willard had charge of the knitting department.

Mrs. Nellie Irish had charge of the surgical dressing department.

Mrs. Eva Rice had charge of the Belgium Relief department.

Mrs. Lillie Wesner, Mrs. Kate Pulver and Mrs. Nettie Caldwell had charge of the cutting department.

Mrs. Dr. Cole, Mrs. Nettie J. Tucker and Mrs. Eva Rice, constituted the inspection committee.

In all these War Activities of Truro Township we have mentioned only those who were officially connected, but there were scores of privates, many of whom were well up in years, and some of whom were very young as well as the intermediates, all of whose names we dislike to omit, but desire to say that the loyal assistance they gave the work created a force that no enemy could successfully combat.

Community High School

A Community High School was organized in 1916, comprising $56\frac{1}{4}$ sections of land with an assessed valuation of \$1,553,000. The first Board of Education was as follows: M. H. Irish, President; C. H. Pulver, Clerk; F. J. King, Jay Welsh, Loren Trowbridge, Otto Grohs, Mrs. Nellie J. Tucker.

Early in the summer of 1920 ground was broken for a new brick Community High School building now (1921) nearing completion at a cost when furnished of \$75,000.00. The building will accommodate 160 pupils and is splendidly located on six acres of land. The intention is to add Domestic Science, Manual Training and Agriculture and make it a High School equal to the best. W. H. Brown, of Abingdon, is the contractor.

The present Board of Education consists of: C. H. Pulver, President; Mrs. Nellie J. Tucker, Clerk; Jay Welsh, Mrs. Minette Baird, G. E. Morgan, Otto Grohs, F. J. King.

TOWN OF VICTORIA

By Mrs. Mary Fifield Woolsey

The Town of Victoria is located in the northeast part of Knox County, Illinois. It is a political unit of the County and comprises the same territory as Township Twelve North, Range Four East. The larger part of the Village of Victoria lies in, and along the west line of, the town of Victoria, about two miles south of its intersection with Walnut Grove and Lynn. The west part of the village lies in the Town of Copley. It is interesting to note that, when Knox County was divided into political towns, in 1850, Copley was first called Prince Albert and Lynn was for many years known as Fraker's Grove, while the first name given to the thirty-six sections comprising the present Town of Victoria was Worcester. However, in a year or two, the official name became Victoria, the same as the village, and has so remained to this day.

In writing of the coming of the first white settlers, the uncertain facts in regard to the Indians can be told but briefly. And, in relating these matters concerning the natives, fact and fiction necessarily blend. Roving bands of Indians crossed the township even within the memory of some still living there, and at one time as many as five hundred went that way when they moved from near Peoria across into Iowa. But the recent Black Hawk War, in 1832, had left Knox county no longer Indian country. The earliest settlers told of a small Indian village, on the Southeast Quarter of Section Twenty, near what came to be known as "Old Salem" and it was, no doubt, occupied by Indians when the first white men came. Mr. John K. Robinson, a son of Moody Robinson, still points out the spring from which they used water and tells of the Indian relics he and his father had found there.

The first to settle in the township was a Mr. Frazier, Edward Brown and John Essex. These men came, at least, as early as 1834. Brown built his cabin a half mile south of what is now the Lundeen place, southeast of Etherley. Mr. Frazier's cabin was just west of the Robinson place on Section Twenty and he lived there for five or ten years. John Essex soon moved up to Fraker's Grove. Edward Brown remained for some time and Archibald Robinson moved into Brown's cabin when he left. Next came Moses Robinson, Moody Robinson, Parsons Alldredge, Coonrod Smith, John Smith, William Overlander and John Arnold. The Smiths and Overlanders came from Ohio, where they had first come from Little York, Pennsylvania. The Robinsons and Alldredges came from Tennessee. These came in 1835. All built permanent homes, and a log-cabin for a school house, and called it Salem, the "Old

Salem" mentioned above. William Overlander settled on the "Overlander place," John Smith where the Lundeen place now is, the Alldredges where Ulysses Ives now owns, Moses Robinson on the next next farm north, Moody Robinson on the farm now owned by Ena Mosher, a descendant of his, and the Arnolds south of the present Salem schoolhouse. Then came George E. Reynolds, Henry Shurtliff, Isaiah Berry, Silas Locke and their families, twenty-one persons in all, from Barrington and nearby points in New Hampshire, and settled on or near the present site of the Village of Victoria. Mr. Reynolds lived during the first winter in a cabin in Forman Grove, northeast of Victoria. This cabin had been started by a still earlier settler, who had abandoned it through fear of the Indians. The first winter was, of course, full of hardships. Mr. Alldredge and Moody Robinson were away from home, for 18 days, searching for a little corn and for a place to get it ground into meal. As they said, they were hunting "a grist." But the next summer more comfortable cabins were built and the people began the usual strenuous life of early pioneers, beset with difficulties but determined to make of this new country the comfortable land of their dreams.

For several years, the children of these New Englanders went through the timber, more than three miles, to "Old Salem" to school. Captain George W. Reynolds, lately deceased, was then a school boy and has often told the writer of these early paths to learning. Parts of the stone foundation and the old fireplace still mark the place where the boys and girls of those days studied the "three R's" and McGuffey's Spelling Book, and, more studiously, evaded the watchful eye of their teacher. This "Old Salem" is located about a mile northwest of the site of the present Salem school house, on the Parsons Alldredge place. This was also used as the first church of that community and there one may still see the graves of many of the oldest settlers. Some of the first teachers were Hannah Olmsted, Charlotte Arnold, Vatch Metcalf, Silas Locke, Henry Shurtliff and Mrs. Minard. One of her pupils tells that Mrs. Minard brought her three small children, including a wee baby, and taught the school, and also cared for her own children at the same time; there was a cradle in the school-room for the baby, and the girls helped take care of it, thus taking the first course in Domestic Science ever given in the county. And, when they "stood up and spelled down," the baby was carried back and forth from side to side as the girls were chosen.

The first white child to be born in the Township was Sarah, daughter of Moody Robinson, November 16th, 1836. She became the wife of Manford Mosher and is still remembered by all the people of the community. The first death

was that of Mrs. Frazier in 1837 and the first marriage was that of Peter Sornberger to Phoebe Wilber in 1838.

Captain Allen built the first frame house, on Section Seventeen; it was always known as the "Old Victoria House." It was built for a tavern and will be more fully described below. The early conditions were naturally characterized by their simplicity—log cabins in the woods, fireplaces and chimneys made of stone, all chinked together with mud. These earliest pioneers stayed close to the wooded lands and did not venture out on the more fertile prairie, because they needed the timber for shelter and fuel. Each family took care of nearly all its own wants; it did its own blacksmithing, spinning, etc. Threshing was done with flails and every house was largely, a law unto itself. The grinding was done in the rudest manner, by rotating a round flat stone above another. A pair of these stones can be seen at the home of a descendant of "Old Billy McBride" in Lynn Township, and were once the property of Michael Fraker, after whom that community was called Fraker's Grove. The first grist mill of any importance was built by Clark Stanton at Rochester on Spoon River, (Elmore) in Peoria county, and the first saw mill by Coonrod Leek at Centerville on Walnut Creek. The folks from Victoria would drive down to Rochester with their grain and sometimes be compelled to wait there several days for their grist. Much later, in about 1856, Mons Olson and a Mr. Renstead built a grist-mill in the south part of the Village of Victoria and this was long a blessing to the community and a mill on that location is still within the memory of most of our people. The house of Frederick Becker is now about where this old mill stood. Travel was usually by oxen and the people of those days would not believe their eyes if they could now see their descendants dashing madly about in automobiles and farming with tractors. The roads followed the paths of least resistance and were usually on the old Indian trails. Stone for foundations and fireplaces was quarried, in many cases, from the very land where the farm buildings were built. In spite of the hardships and difficulties, these pioneers had many a rollocking good time at their log-rollings, house-raisings, corn-huskings, quilting parties and their spelling and singing schools to say nothing of hunting deer and wolves.

The present village and, later, the Town of Victoria, was named Victoria after the Queen of England, who was crowned in 1837. Before there was ever any village on its present site, Captain Allen had started the "Old Victoria House" and Milton Shurtliff, who owned about a thousand acres of land east and south of the present village of Victoria, had platted a village near the center of the north half of Section Seventeen, a little more than a mile east and a little south of the present

village. The survey for this earlier village, planned by Milton Shurtliff, was made August 30th, 1837, by George A. Charles, Knox County Surveyor, and a record of same can be found in Vol. 4, page 128, Deed Records of Knox County. There was to be Public Square, Main Street, North Street, South Street, Alton Street and Shurtliff Street, and there were ten blocks. As a part of his plan, others had been induced to build nearby and Captain Allen's tavern was, no doubt, also prompted by Milton Shurtliff, who had given him an agreement for a deed. Being operated by Allen and on land that belonged, in a way, to Shurtliff, it was variously known as Allen's Tavern, Allen & Shurtliff's Tavern, Shurtliff's Tavern and the "Old Victoria House." Captain Allen died before the "Old Victoria House" was fully completed and, there being an indebtedness of \$200.00 in favor of Milton Shurtliff, he caused the rights of "Aunt Allen," as Captain Allen's wife was affectionately called, to be forfeited to him. "Aunt Allen" thereafter lived with Dr. John Langdon Fifield at Rochester until her death in 1848. The Fifields lived in the "Old Victoria House" from 1848 to 1850. Dr. Fifield has told of stopping at Captain Allen's Tavern as early as 1840, and sleeping in an unfinished attic, on the floor, with sixteen other men, who, like himself, had been traveling that way and had been caught in a severe storm. Near at hand was a blacksmith shop and a large barn and a few cabins. The house of Brazail White stood just east of the "Old Victoria House" and was later moved to the Charles J. Carlson farm where it can still be seen. There was a semi-official postoffice and a store in the tavern. This "Old Victoria House" became the home of "Uncle Alex" Sornberger in 1850, and remained such until his death, he having lived in a cabin a half mile south of there until 1850. The "Old Victoria House" stood a few feet southwest of the house now occupied by Clifford Sornberger and the old doorstone (6 ft. by 4 ft.) can still be seen on the premises, at the end of the east walk. The house itself was torn down in 1868. In Vol. 2 of the County Commissioners Record at page 27, made during the March Term of 1838, is a petition asking for a road to be marked, running from about the present site of West Jersey to the center of Section Thirty now in the Town of West Jersey, thence in a westerly direction by "the nearest and best route to Victoria in Township 12 North, Range 4 East." The Court appointed Wm. Overlander, John Brown and William Webster (West Jersey) "to view, mark and locate said road." And on page 81 of this Record appears the report of these road-viewers and their field notes. They described the road as beginning at the center of Main Street at the east side of Victoria, "situated on the East one-half of the Northwest Quarter and also the West one-half of the Northeast Quarter of Section Seventeen, Township Twelve

North, and Four East." On page 67 of this record (in 1838) the voting place for the "Walnut Creek District" was changed from Centerville to "Shurtliff's Tavern" and remained there for about ten years. This same Record, at page 205, shows that new voting districts were formed by the County Commissioners in March of 1839 and what are now Copley and Victoria and the part of Truro, north of Spoon River, were put together in the "Victoria District," the election still to be held "at the House of Allen & Shurtliff in Victoria." Again in 1841, this Record (page 255) shows the location of a road from about the present site of Arkansas (also known as Truro and "Four-Corners") on a diagonal line, northwest, "to Victoria on Section 17", still taking no notice of any other Victoria. This road has now been put largely on section lines, but still shows some of its slant lines in the present "timber road" to Williamsfield, via East Truro. It ran on to Peoria on the south and to Andover on the north. Again, in Vol. 3 of this Record at page 81, is the description of a road from "Eugene," southwest of what is now Williamsfield, "to the Public Square of the Town of Victoria just north of the center of Section Seventeen" (May 18, 1842). Isaiah Berry later kept this Shurtliff's tavern and elections were held there until about 1848, when the voting place was moved to the schoolhouse in what is now the Village of Victoria. So, too, the first survey Vol. 4 of these Commissioner's Records, at page 257), of a road showing the location of the present Village, was July 13th, 1848, being from "Trenton" (south of Dahinda) "to Victoria, on the west side of Sections Seven and Eighteen." As late as 1845, a road was surveyed from the Mound Farm, just over in Copley on Section Thirteen, right through the present Village of Victoria to the Rock Island and Peoria Road running through Shurtliff's Victoria, but no notice was yet taken of the site of the present village. So, whenever Victoria is mentioned in the public records, up to the year 1848, "Old Victoria" is meant, and for ten years it bid fair to be the metropolis of what even later (after 1850) became the Town (or Township) of Victoria.

Meantime, George F. Reynolds, remembered even yet as "Deacon Reynolds," and his neighbors, up on the west line of the township, were not willing to let the village grow up around the "Old Victoria House," without doing their utmost to bring it to their own land. Mr. Reynolds had built a double log cabin near the west side of what later became the east village park, and his hospitality made his hostelry the stopping place of many a traveler. The stage line from Chicago to Burlington now passed the Reynolds hostelry and aided in bringing the village to the new site. Two large frame houses were moved to Victoria on sleds, with oxen, from Centerville,

which was situated just over the town line, in Lynn. One was owned by Dr. John W. Spaulding and was used as his home and office, in Victoria, and is now known as Carlson's shoe store; the other was owned by Alex Albro, a great uncle of the wife of Judge George W. Thompson, and this house is now known as the Youngs house. A room in the Albro house was used temporarily, for school purposes. Both of these houses are still in good repair. Mr. Reynolds deeded off lots and did all he could to "steal the town" from Milton Shurtliff, who lived in Tazewell county. Our county records show a deed to Jonas J. Hedstrom in 1843, five acres at \$3.00 per acre, and deeds to John Becker, two acres at \$5.00 per acre. Mr. Hedstrom had the first blacksmith shop and Mr. Becker had the first general store. Later "Dick" Whiting and Norton Kelsey started some competition for Mr. Becker in the Albro house. Joseph Freed bought a lot in the east part of the village and built the house where Gus Stout now lives and there he conducted a shoeshop for many years. The lot just east was purchased by John I. Knapp, a carpenter and cabinet maker, and he built the house that stood there until about five years ago. In 1849, the Village of Victoria was platted, by John Becker, John W. Spaulding, George F. Reynolds, Jonas J. Hedstrom, William L. Shurtliff, Joseph Freed and John I. Knapp, as proprietors, and the question as to where the village was to be was finally decided. However, the Village of Victoria was not incorporated until as late as 1886, with Charles S. Robinson, mentioned above, as President, and Wm. McKendree Woolsey, R. B. Hodgeman, Geo. Luther Hedstrom, Charles S. Clark and William Aten, as trustees. The village has never voted "wet" and is proud of the fact that it has never had saloons. Dr. Spaulding, the Whitings, the Beckers, the Copleys, Dr. Fifield, Jonas J. Hedstrom, George F. Reynolds, the Tabors, and the Olmsteds were among the early chief promoters of the schools and other helpful institutions of the village. Still others of the early families were leaders in organizing the first churches in the village and these will be mentioned below in a paragraph relative to the churches. George Sornberger should be mentioned among the early pioneers. He was a Revolutionery soldier and members of his family have had a large part in the life of the community. Three sons, Alex, Peter and Anson, and seven daughters settled in and near the village. His descendants number over three hundred and many still reside there and are among the best citizens.

As related above, the first schoolhouse was at "Old Salem," but in a few years the settlers up on the site of what was later the Village of Victoria began to plan for a school of their own. In March, 1838, the County Cimmissioners appointed George F. Reynolds, William Overlander and Archi-

bald Robinson as school trustees for Township Twelve North, Four East. The earliest known local record of school matters, there in Victoria, dates from August, 1847, the time when the present village began to be at all important. There can be found such items as the following in the minute-book of its first school directors: "At a meeting, held according to law for the purpose of locating and building a schoolhouse, on the 31st day of August, 1847, John I. Knapp elected chairman, Dr. J. W. Spaulding, secretary. Voted that the lot east of William Shurtliff's house be purchased for \$4.00, containing one-half acre. Also voted to buy a log building for school purposes." "Treasurer of Victoria School District pay ten dollars on school house, eighty cents for interest and nine and 59-100 dollars to Mary Ann Stanley on schedule March 29th, 1848." Signed by Isaiah Berry and Hiram Andrews, School Directors. "Sold G. F. Reynolds the roof of the old school house for \$4.00 which paid him for the school house lot." Signed by J. W. Spaulding, Treasurer. This was at the time when the school lot, just west of what is now known as Geo. M. Nelson's residence and wagon shop was purchased, and there was where the children of the Victoria district attended school for about forty-five years. Others of these early teachers in the district were Mary Ann Leighton, Miss Maxfield, Miss Willmot, Harriet Foote, Miss Pratt, Byron Dorr, Nancy Burt, Electa Strong, Mary Hauver, Olivia Martin and many others. Salaries averaged around \$3.50 per week and "board around." During the early part of this period a so-called "select-school" was also held in the basement of the Methodist church just over the township line, in Copley; among the teachers of the "select-school" were "Young & Raymond," Miss Ellithorpe (Arnold), and Miss Julia Wilber (Boardman). In about 1867 and for a few years thereafter there was a combination of the two districts (Victoria and the "West School," in Copley), and the higher grades and a few high-school studies were taught in the basement of the Methodist church. Mr. Lewis B. Aiken, Robert Arnld, Lizzie Gordon (Robson), Emily Bristo (Robinson) and L. K. Byers were some of the teachers in the "graded" school, as it was called. In 1852, May 1st, a meeting was held in the Victoria School District, for the purpose of levying a tax to build a new frame school house, with John L. Fifield, chairman, and John Becker, Secretary. There the list of taxable inhabitants of Victoria School District are set out as follows:

Hiram Andrews
Anson Sornberger
Lewis Bissell
Isaiah Berry
Samuel P. Whiting

Mons Olson
Walter Britton
Joseph Freed
John T. Smith
Charles Reynolds

Norton Kelsey
 Elam A. Pease
 Sanford Rodgers
 Josiah D. Bodley
 Alexander Sornberger
 John L. Fifield
 George F. Reynolds
 Richard H. Whiting
 Theodore D. Case
 Needham Rodgers
 Thomas Force
 William Burgess
 George W. Reynolds

David Tripp
 John Becker
 Jonas Hedstrom
 Peter Challman
 Erick Skogland
 Mathew Challman
 George Challman
 Gustavus Janson
 John I. Knapp
 Jonas Helstrum
 John Spaulding
 Albert Arnold
 George Cadwell

The building referred to above was later known as the "big room" of the old school building, vacated in about 1892, and in its last days was presided over by A. W. Ryan, M. E. Barnes, and P. C. Hankins, as principals. For about the last twenty-seven years, school has been held in a four-room frame school house on the north side of the village. Lately, the Victoria school has become a consolidated district school, merging the "West School" and the "North School" with the old Victoria district. The other district schools in the township are: Union, Sixteen, Fairview, Cravens, Stump Valley, Center Prairie, Salem and Etherley.

The Early Roads

The early roads of the Town and community were very often utterly impassable. The prairies were full of bog holes. Tiling and ditching and building bridges have combined to make the town very different with respect to the roads and now hard roads are being advocated. When the Albro and Spaulding houses were moved from Centerville, it was necessary to leave them on the open prairie until the roads dried up in the spring. Even the road from the village to the nearby cemetery was impassable for weeks at a time, almost within a stone's throw from the houses of Joseph Freed and John I. Knapp. Almost everything was regulated by the condition of the roads, in those early days. A map of the roads of Knox county as they were in 1841 (back part Vol. 3, Commrs. Rec.) shows important roads coming together at Centerville and many at Shurtliff's Victoria, but only one or two passing through the present Victoria. The roads ran at all angles, much as the crow flies, and the map referred to looks like a number of spider webs all connected with each other. An important State Road ran from Enterprise in La Salle county to Knoxville and was the regular road to Chicago, over which the produce was sometimes taken by the Victoria farmers to Chicago itself. This road missed the present Village of Vic-

toria nearly two miles to the northeast. Another important State Road was the one from Peoria to Rock Island and to Hennepin, by way of Andover; this road ran through Shurtliff's Victoria, but not through the present village. A part of it still exists where the road runs on a slant from the Goodspeed to the Carlson farm. Still another important road was the one from Henderson to Victoria and on to the east. This passed through both the old and the new Victoria. When the road from Burlington to Chicago was laid out to pass through the present site of the village, it was the controlling feature in the question as to where the Village should be and it was moved to the west line of the town, much the same as the coming of railroads later changed the location of other villages. William Overlander, in March of 1838, was appointed supervisor of roads in the Victoria vicinity. The records of the county show that he was allowed the munificent sum of \$10.00 for building a bridge over Walnut Creek near Centerville. At page 160 of Vol. 2 of the County Commrs. Rec. is as follows: "We, Parsons Aldredge and Barzilia Shurtliff, ——— have viewed, marked and located a road by blazing the trees in the timber and sticking stakes on the prairie on the nearest and best route commencing about 80 rods east of the southeast corner, Sec. 31, in Tp. 5 N., R. 5 E., thence running west to the H. McClanihan ford, thence to Victoria and thence to the big mound west of Geo. F. Reynold's, where it intersects the State Road, heading from Enterprise (in La Salle Co.) to Knoxville, and we consider said road to be of public utility on account of being the nearest and best route to Hennepin and Chicago, ———. Dated, February 27, 1839." This report was approved and the treasurer of the county was ordered to pay each of the road viewers \$1.25 for his services. Parsons Aldredge and Coonrod Smith had much to do with the opening of roads in the Town.

Churches

The early inhabitants of the Town of Victoria were more than ordinarily religious. As soon as Old Salem school house was built, it became the place of holding divine services. Rev. Charles Bostic and others preached there and in the various homes and a Methodist church was organized by them there at Old Salem in 1836, and they afterwards built a frame church in the Village of Victoria, just over the line in Copley, in 1854. The first church building to be erected in the village was built in 1851, by the Congregational Society which had been organized April 30th, 1841. The meeting to organize was held at the home of George Foster. He and his family, Columbia Dunn, and Henrietta Olmsted Gaines, George F. Reynolds and wife, and others were the organizers.

The Rev. S. G. Wright was its first pastor and he was followed by Rev. Daniel Todd, Rev. Wm. Beardsley, B. F. Haskins and others. Among the many "supplies" who preached there were Jonathan Blanchard, president of Knox College, and Rev. Jenny, the father of the much esteemed church-visitor of the Central Congregational Church of Galesburg. A religious class for Swedish people was organized December 15th, 1846, in a log house in the Village, by Rev. Jonas J. Hedstrom, and, in 1853, the Swedish people erected the second church in the village, over in the Town of Copley. It is the first Swedish Methodist Church in the world; the building is still standing, and being used by the same society. The Center Prairie Swedish Church is a branch of the above and was built in 1869. The third church building was erected as related above by the Methodists whose organization commenced at Old Salem in 1836. It was a two-story frame building, the upper room to be used for church purposes and the lower room for school purposes. The building was constructed by Sanford Tabor, as contractor. It was commenced in the fall of 1854 and in September, 1855, it was dedicated. The upper part was paid for by the Methodists and the lower part by popular subscription. Some of the pastors the writer recalls were D. A. Falkenbury, "Uncle Billie" Smith, W. P. Graves, U. J. Giddings, Jacob Mathews, J. D. Smith and many others. The old church building was sold in 1909, and torn down. A new brick building was erected in its place and dedicated June 5th, 1910, the fourth church building to be built in the village. Some years later a fine new parsonage was erected.

Mail Delivery

Mail was delivered for a long time at the "Old Victoria House" and Captain Allen and Isaiah Berry took care of the mail in an unofficial sort of a way. But George F. Reynolds was the first postmaster to be appointed by the government, in about 1848. His successors in order, were Isaiah Berry, E. A. Pease, Ephriam Russell, H. K. Olmsted, Lew Emery, Lee Shannon, Samuel Jarvis, Cass Sornberger, Samuel Jarvis (again), Ralph B. Woolsey, Arthur Van Buren, Grace Van Buren and Miles Sloan, the present incumbent. After many migrations the office is now located in a good brick building constructed for the purpose by J. E. Welin. For many years, mail came to Victoria, by the lumbering stage-coach on its way from Chicago to Burlington. After the C. B. & Q. R. R. came through, a "hack" was driven from Victoria to Altona and return every day, carrying the mail. Some of those who drove this mail-hack were John I. Knapp, Henry Olmsted, Seneca Mosher, Jacob McGrew, Joe Moore, John Mahnesmith, and Aaron Olmsted. After the C. B. & Q. came, Centerville

was for the time a sub-station of Victoria. The postoffice began to be of more importance in 1898 when rural service was established at Victoria. The first rural service established by the Department anywhere in the United States was authorized as effective October 1st, 1896, at Charlestown, Halltown and Uvilla, all in West Virginia. The first in Illinois were three routes, established at Auburn on December 10th, 1896. The service at Victoria was established June 1st, 1898. The carriers, John Dale and Clark Herrold, have been continuously in the service ever since the date of its inauguration at Victoria, and no complaints or charges of irregularity have ever been made against them. In 1899, the Galesburg, Etherley and Eastern R. R. was extended to Victoria and this greatly facilitates the mail service, giving the office two mails a day.

The Political Side

Politically, the people of the Town of Victoria have always taken an active interest in all elections from President of the United States down to the lowest office. It was not organized as a political Town until 1850 and was not called the Town of Victoria until about 1852. Until 1849, the county was the smallest political unit and it was divided into such voting precincts as the three County Commissioners chose to make. The people of what is now the Town of Victoria voted at first up on Walnut Creek in the "Fraker's Grove Precinct." In Vol. 2 of the Commr's. Record at page 11, (Dec. Term, 1837), appears the following: "Coonrod Leek presented a petition from sundry citizens of Fraker's Grove, praying for a removal of the place of holding elections to the house of Caleb B. Harley, living on the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 4, Tp. 12 N., R. 4 E. Order that the election be hereafter held at the house of said Harley, in said Fraker's Grove Precinct, until otherwise ordered by this Court." The two townships of Stark county in which West Jersey and Lafayette are now situated were then in Knox county and on page 27 of the above Record appears the petition of sundry citizens of 12 N., 5 E. (West Jersey), presented by Newton Mathews, a resident of that township, asking for a road to be laid out from West Jersey to Victoria. On page 55 of this Record, the "Fraker's Grove Precinct" was divided and the later Towns of Copley, Victoria, West Jersey and the south tier of sections of the next township north were constituted a Justices and Constables District, by the name of the "Walnut Creek District." (March Term, 1838). It was also "ordered that Henry McClanihan, Silas Locke and Barzel Shurtliff be and they are hereby appointed Judges of Election for Walnut Creek District" page 58). About this time the voting place was changed to the "Old Victoria House," as related above. Peter Van Buren

was for many terms a Justice of the Peace. Silas Locke was appointed, by the County Commissioners, as the first assessor for what are now Copley, Walnut Grove, Victoria and Lynn. Then came a new districting of the County and what is now the Town of Victoria was grouped with Copley and that part of Truro north of Spoon River as related above, and called the "Victoria District." When the State Legislature passed the law adopting "Township Organization," George C. Lanphere became the County Judge in place of the Commissioner's Court composed formerly of the three County Commissioners, and a Supervisor was to be elected from each Town to do the work formerly done by the three commissioners. At the December Term in 1849, Judge Lanphere appointed a committee of three, of whom John Arnold of Victoria was one, to divide the County into Towns. The committee decided to let each congressional township be a political Town and issued a call for an election of all the voters in each township to determine the name of its Town. Township 12 north range 4 (Victoria) chose the name of Worcester, but in a couple of years it adopted the more suitable name of Victoria. The first Town meeting chose George F. Reynolds as Moderator and M. D. Minard as temporary clerk. The election resulted as follows:

John L. Jarnagin—Supervisor.

J. F. Hubble—Town Clerk.

M. D. Minard—Assessor.

Charles Shurtliff—Collector.

John Smith, Moses Robinson—Justices of the Peace.

A. B. Coddington, Peter Van Buren, Joe W. Moshier—Commissioners of Highways.

Alex Sornberger, Seneca Mashier—Overseers of Poor.

From the date of this first election the records of the Town are readily available in the hands of the Town Clerk and the County Clerk, to show what has transpired politically since the Town of Victoria was first constituted. Its Supervisors, in order, are:

J. L. Jarnagin

M. C. Hubell

J. L. Jarnagin

Thomas Whiting

Samuel Coleman

J. H. Copley

Wash Lynes

Henry Vaughn

M. B. Ogden

Henry Vaughn

Homer Gaines

C. P. Sansbury

Alex Ingles

C. P. Sansbury

C. S. Clark

John McCrea

Charles Sayre

W. B. Elliott

Jesse McIlravy

Will Sandquist

Frank Peterson

The Town of Victoria has, especially on Center Prairie and near the Village, some of the most fertile farm lands in the county or anywhere. Most of the land is underlaid with coal. Some of the unimproved land is worth as high as \$300 per acre and some moderately improved land has sold as high as \$375 per acre, but most of the owners will not put any price on their land. The railroad, now the Galesburg & Great Eastern, runs from Wataga to Galesburg, and is owned by the people who do not seem to require outside capital to finance their institutions. There are many new brick buildings in the village and business is particularly good in all lines. The Town is, and may well be, proud of its history and of the substantial development of its people.

Respectfully submitted, this 1st day of June, 1919.

MARY FIFIELD WOOLSEY.

WALNUT GROVE TOWNSHIP

By Mrs. Fannie H. Sheahan

Walnut Grove Township is located in what is known as the "Military Tract," a section of the state selected as bounty land for soldiers, because of its fine soil and undulating surface. It is well watered by Walnut Creek and its sixty-seven tributaries and is a Spoon River auxiliary. Its soil is unsurpassed in fertility and fine farms with substantial buildings are to be found everywhere within its borders.

The township derived its name from the extensive groves of walnut timber which formerly grew near its center and on the northwest quarter of section 26. These two groves include all its timber with the exception of a small tract in its southern end. An attempt was made toward the settlement of the township as early as the spring of 1832 by Messrs. Jones and DeHart who made claims and built a cabin on Section 21 but became alarmed at the hostility of the Indians and left at the time of the Black Hawk War and never returned. They had pushed away out on the frontier and become accustomed to roughing it. DeHart, nevertheless was greatly frightened one day when no danger was near. They had broken ten acres of prairie land in Walnut Grove Township on what was afterward the farm of Amos Ward. While DeHart was plowing with a yoke of oxen, an old Indian squaw came out of the woods and waved a red blanket. This, he surmised, was a signal for him to move quickly for his life. Accordingly, he started immediately leaving his oxen in the furrow. On hearing it was only a scare, he returned the following day for his team and effects; but left the country and never returned. Several times during the Black Hawk War the settlers fled to the forts. The ruins of their cabin was still standing in 1838.

In 1836, John Thompson, the first permanent settler, moved here from Pennsylvania with his wife Catherine, and settled on Section 16. Mr. Thompson planted the first crop, a field of sod corn, in 1837, fencing it in with the first rails split in the township. The only near neighbors, the Thompsons had were a band of some thirty Indians who camped for a short time near Mr. Thompson's residence which was located where the Kufus Grade School now stands. The nearest white neighbors were at Fraker's Grove, eleven miles distant. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Capps, two of the first settlers had been soldiers of the war of 1812 and the father of Mr. Allen one of the pioneers of the township, served in the Revolutionary War.

Elder M. Smith of the Mormon church built the first frame

house in 1840 on section 15 on what was originally called the Snow and afterward the Wisegarver farm. In 1842 several hundred of the Mormons had located here and designed building a temple on Section 15, but before carrying out their plans Joseph Smith, the leader, had a new revelation (caused by the hostility of the settlers) commanding them to leave here and go to Nauvoo, Hancock county, which they promptly obeyed at great personal sacrifice to many of them. As they had entered and possessed themselves of nearly all the timber land and designed building up a community of their own faith, the other settlers were not sorry to see them depart. The only trace they left is a row of giant cottonwood trees which they planted and which still stand in the center of the road east of the village of Altona.

The first boy born in the township was John Thompson, Jr. The first girl, Helen Maria Ward, was born February 3, 1839. She was the daughter of Amos and Maria Ward and married A. P. Stephens, died in Russell, Kansas, January 3, 1912, and was brought here for burial. After Mr. John Thompson came other early settlers, Levi Stephens, Abram Piatt, Simeon L. Collinson, Amos Ward. Mr. Ward is said to have made the first wagon tracks between Altona and Victoria in 1838. In 1839 he was elected the first Justice of the Peace. The first couple married were Austin Frederick and Elizabeth Finney. The first death was that of Mrs. Hinsdale, a sister of Amos Ward, who died in August, 1838, at the residence of Abram Piatt, on Section 15, where she was also buried. In 1844 John W. Clarke was appointed the first postmaster, succeeded in 1845 by S. Ellis and he by Amos Ward in 1846 who then held the office for a long term of years when it was much more troublesome than remunerative. A little drawer in a bookcase served as a deposit for all the mail for ten years.

The first school-house was built on the southwest quarter of Section 16 in 1840 and Miss Robey Tabor, a Quakeress from Massachusetts was the first teacher. She married afterward, moved to Henry county and died in 1896. Another early teacher was Eugene L. Gross who afterward distinguished himself in the legislative halls of the state at Springfield. His school was taught in a small log building, 16x16, built about the year 1841. In 1899 there were eleven schools in the township, costing ten thousand dollars. Elder Samuel Shaw organized the first church (after the Mormons). It was known as the Baptist church and had eight members with a place of worship on Walnut Creek. The first township officers elected April 5, 1853, were Amos Ward, Supervisor; A. F. Ward, Clerk; H. L. Sage, Assessor; Jas. Livingstone, Collector; H. L. Collinson, Daniel Allen and C. Capps, Highway Commissioners; Reuben Cochran, Overseer of the Poor; Amos Ward and David

Livingstone, Justices of the Peace. The population of Walnut Grove in 1860 was 1,120; 1870 was 1,960; 1880 was 1,781; 1890 was 1,350; 1900 was 1,280.

Endured Privations

The old settlers endured many hardships and the present generation would be very uncomfortable if they had to live in the old log houses with their fireplaces, very few of which remain. One was standing a few years ago on the H. K. Whiting farm now owned by Mrs. Amenoff. The names and deeds of the old settlers who endured hardship and trials in a new and wild country to lay the foundation for future greatness and make a more beautiful and cultivated country and their memories should be perpetuated and handed down to posterity so that future generations should know and appreciate those who began the work of settling and changing a wild unsettled country as Knox once was to what it is now. Without a road or guide the pioneers roamed the prairies and timber with their slow but faithful oxen. At this time there was but one traveled road in the county running from Peoria to Galena, through Victoria and Walnut Grove Townships, known as the Galena Trail. Streams were forded, hogs butchered and frozen, then taken to Rock Island or Peoria, some taking their grain and hogs to Chicago, Jonathan Gibbs in 1842 receiving 47c a bushel for his wheat, one party received 15c a bushel for wheat and were 11½ days making the trip. They received \$19.50 for the wheat, bought three barrels of salt at \$1.50 a barrel, the price at home being \$3.00. In the winter of 1841 Judge Hanneman drove 1,300 head of hogs from Knoxville to Chicago for which he had paid \$2 a hundred pounds net. He had them slaughtered and packed in Chicago and shipped to New York and Boston. In this transaction he lost \$5,000. He hired sixteen boys to drive them, the trip consuming sixteen days. At that time Chicago was a small town situated in the middle of miry swamps.

In 1842 Jonathan Gibbs went to Peoria to sell his pork, the highest offer was 1½c per pound for dressed hogs, 3½c cash or 4c in trade for green hams and lard. Over a fireplace in Mr. Gibbs' cabin sixteen barrels of lard were tried out that fall. Such a stupendous job of work would scarcely be undertaken by any family at the present time. Money was an article little known and seldom seen among the early settlers, nearly all business was transacted by trading or barter. Taxes and postage required cash and often letters remained a long time in the postoffice for want of twenty-five cents. The mail was carried every week by a lone horseman with a mail bag or if the village was on a stage route the old stage coach would make its appearance about once a week with the mail. One or two

letters a month was considered a large mail nor did three cents pay the postage. It took twenty-five cents which sometimes took five or six weeks to earn, fifty dollars being considered ample compensation for one year's labor. The amount of taxes on \$1,100 worth of property in 1836 was \$1.37½.

Bee hunting was one of the early pastimes of the settlers the strained honey was sent in barrels to St. Louis and the price 37½c a gallon. The first crops of the settlers, however abundant, gave only partial relief, there being no mills to grind the grain. Hence the necessity of grinding by hand power or grating. A grater was made from a piece of tin sometimes taken from an old worn out tin bucket. This was thickly perforated with nail holes bent into a semi-circular form and nailed, rough side up, to a board. The corn was taken in the ear and grated before it was quite dry and hard.

The first year after Mr. Amos Ward arrived in the county, he took a bag of corn on his horse and went to Andover Mills. On arriving there he found they had stopped running during the dry weather. He returned home and the following day went to Centerville. There the miller was grinding a little when he could so he left his grist and in a few days returned for it, but it was not ground, so he went home and finally traveled one hundred miles back and forth before he got his bag of corn ;in the meantime grating corn on the primitive grater described and making the meal thus obtained into batter cakes, Johnny cakes, corn dodgers, and pone, which was a common diet at that time.

A. W. Miller came to the county in a pioneer wagon, (prairie schooner). It was all made of wood, there being no iron about it. The wheels were about ten inches thick and two and a half feet in diameter. The wagon was quite low. These wheels were sawed from the end of a log and were solid. A plank was pinned on the side to prevent season cracking. The axles were about six inches square rounded at the ends for a six inch hole in the wheel. Four or five oxen were hitched to a wagon and it was slowly dragged over the prairie. When in use it would be heard for miles squeaking even when well greased with soft soap. One load of wood such as this wagon was capable of hauling would last a family all summer.

Spinning wool and flax by means of the spinning wheel was one of the common household duties. The loom was also necessary. A common article woven on the loom was linsey woolsey, the chain being linen and the filling woollen. This cloth was used for dresses for the girls and their mothers. Nearly all the clothes worn by the men were homespun. The cooking was done in large kettles hung over the fire suspended on trammels which were held by strong poles. A long handled

frying pan was used for meat which was furnished in abundance. Wild game, quail, prairie chicken, and turkey, deer and bear meat, were plentiful, pork and poultry were soon raised in abundance. The pleasures of the early settlers took the form of amusements such as the "quilting bee," "corn husking," "apple paring," and in timbered sections "log rolling," and "house raising," and they would come for miles around to enjoy these gatherings. Wolf hunts were enjoyed by the men.

The census of 1870 gives the population of the township 1,962; voters, 375. Number of farms, 170; dwellings, 393; horses, 1,042; mules, 29; sheep, 458; hogs, 2,405; bushels of wheat, 17,607; rye, 3,300; corn, 210,220; oats, 66,733.

Census of 1910—Population, 1,209. Township officers, 1918, are: Supervisor, J. A. Johnson; Town Clerk, S. H. Johnson; Assessor, N. H. Nelson; Collector, G. N. Larson; Commissioner of Highways, C. L. Youngdahl; Justice of the Peace (resigned); Constable, O. W. Peterson; School Trustees, J. P. Walgren, Alfred Nelson, W. C. Stuckey; Library Board, C. C. Sawyer; Clerk, A. C. Keener.

Altona

Coming from the west, the traveler sees a picturesque little village, its streets embowered in trees, crowning a slight elevation in an otherwise level tract of farming land. This town, Altona, is situated on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad about sixteen miles east of Galesburg. Around it lies as rich a farming country as can be found in Illinois, and the village itself is one of the most prosperous in the county, having electric lights, cement walks, a public library, bank, and all modern improvements.

Altona was laid out and platted in 1854 by John Piatt for the heirs of John Thompson. Later E. B. Main and Daniel Allen laid out an addition, just northeast of the first location. The place was then called La Pier. While the Central Military Tract, now the C., B. & Q. R. R. was being built in 1853 many laborers employed on the road came and camped in the edge of the wood, near the railroad line. To supply their wants, Cyrus Willard and J. S. Chambers built a store, 18x36 feet in size near the center of Section 16 on the northeast quarter of that section of land then owned by Daniel Allen. This was the first store building erected in Altona, and was the pride of the community, as it was the only store between Galesburg and Kewanee. Samuel P. Whiting built the second store, Niles & Gay later. In 1854 Mr. Erickson, of Moline, built a flouring mill. The mill continued in successful operation for ten years, Nels P. Peterson and Thos. Taylor operated it later. Ambrose Foster had a broom factory. There were several wagon makers,

Darius Pierce operated a cooperage, later Mr. Tornquist had a carriage factory. None of them employed much extra help. In 1855 an elevator was built. Cline's elevator and Tamblyn's were burned. The farmers now own an elevator on the site of the Tamblyn elevator.

The first hotel was built back of Willard & Chambers store (which was located where E. F. Swanson's store now stands) was operated by a Mr. Hahn and later burned down, never rebuilt. The Walnut Grove Hotel was built in 1854, operated by Needham Rogers, Matthew Wiley and Mrs. Ackerman in turn, is now demolished and a nice modern residence built on the site by W. C. Stuckey whose father, S. S. Stuckey came here in 1854 and built the first house in the northeast part of the township. The Altona House, facing the depot, was constructed by Mrs. McKie, H. G. O. Wales, J. A. Negus, J. B. McCalmont and Mr. Hopkins were successive proprietors. The Brown Hotel was built later by B. H. Brown and operated by him, later by G. F. Edwards, Robert Wilson and Mr. Hopkins, is now a private residence occupied by S. M. Whiting, whose father built the second store building in town. He was later editor of the Altona Journal from 1877 to 1884, succeeded by O. B. Kail. The Altona Record was first published March 1, 1888, by C. F. McDonough. Later editors were Sam W. West, Arthur Austin and F. C. Krans, its present proprietor, who is also mayor of the town.

The village of Altona was incorporated under special charter in 1856 under the general law in 1862 and again in 1874.

Altona has always been noted for the excellence of its schools. There has been a good graded school here since 1858. The first school election was held October 9, 1858, at which M. B. Waldo, E. B. Main and Jas. T. Bliss were elected directors, and a graded school established with a primary, intermediate, and grammar course. The grammar course as follows: Practical and intellectual arithmetic, geography and map drawing continued, Sander's New Fifth Reader, Analysis of words; 2. Single entry bookkeeping, U. S. History, English Grammar, Analysis and Punctuation, Elocution and Composition; 3. Harkness first and second Latin book, Caesar, Cicero and Virgil, First Greek Book, Xenophon's Anabasis, Higher Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Surveying, Rhetoric, Natural Philosophy, How Plants Grow, Political Economy and History. The first principal, Wm. A. Jones, a Yale graduate, received \$600 a year; Nancy Johnson, Intermediate, \$240; Miss Marsden, Primary, \$4.50 a week. A new school building and location was voted for at an election held May 2, 1863, at which thirteen votes were cast, O. T. Johnson receiving ten for director. August 15, 1864, it was voted to sell the old building and site

for \$1,500. An additional \$1,500 was borrowed of Geo. W. Ransom for building purposes. Matthew Wiley was the contractor and the High School building was completed in 1864. The new Kufus Grade School was erected in its place and occupied for school purposes September, 1917, Mrs. Mary I. Riner Kufus donating \$8,000 toward its erection. It was completed and dedicated August 28, 1918, Rev. Brink, M. E. minister; S. J. S. Moore, Presbyterian minister; A. R. Keeler, Mayor of Altona; Hon. Francis G. Blair, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Walter F. Boyes, County Superintendent of Schools; W. L. Steele, Galesburg, City Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Thos. Sheahan, (a former teacher and graduate of the old school and daughter of Wm. Hillerby, an old settler,) being on the program. A short time before, in 1916, the Walnut Grove Township High School in the north part of town had been dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. Judge J. D. Welch, Co. Supt. Boyes of Galesburg and State Supt. of Public Instruction Francis G. Blair were speakers on the program. Mr. and Mrs. J. M. McKie donated a fine new piano for the use of the school and handsomely furnished a rest room for the teachers.

The Ransom Public Library was erected and dedicated March 28, 1890. Hon. E. A. Bancroft of Galesburg and Dr. G. S. Chalmers were speakers. Geo. W. Ransom left his entire estate, some \$8,000, (with the exception of a bequest to the Masons and Walnut Grove cemetery), to establish a Public Library in the town, if the township would built a suitable building.

The Churches

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in August, 1853, with a membership of thirteen, under charge of Rev. Jas. Quimby. In 1857 a church was erected and later a parsonage, the two costing \$5,000. The church has been remodeled and rededicated twice. Rev. Brink is the present pastor, members 128. The Congregational church was founded Feb. 21, 1857, with nine members under charge of Rev. A. Root. A church costing \$4,000 was dedicated November 9, 1866. The present members worship with the Presbyterians, Geo. A. Ward, clerk. Rev. I. N. Candee, D. D., T. S. Vaill and J. T. Bliss organized the Presbyterian church (O. S.) April 25, 1857, there being twenty-one members. The old building was remodeled and burned, a new brick structure was erected and dedicated December 2, 1917, members, 133. The formation of the Lutheran church took place in 1869, the congregation erected a church building costing \$4,000 and later a parsonage. The first pastor was Rev. Philip Direll. The denomination has steadily grown in numbers, membership at present about 350. The Swedish Baptist Mission was opened in 1876 by J. W.

Stromberg but only holds occasional services being without a regular pastor.

The Banks

The first bank in the village was an outgrowth of the general mercantile business of A. P. Johnson & Co., which was started in 1854. Until 1890 when Mr. Johnson left the place his was the only bank in Altona. Then the Bank of Altona incorporated under the State Banking Law was organized with A. M. Craig, President; C. S. Clarke, Vice President; Geo. Craig, Cashier; J. M. McKie, Assistant Cashier. In January, 1896, J. M. McKie was elected to the position made vacant by Geo. Craig's death. The present officers are J. M. McKie, President; C. C. Craig, Vice President; G. N. Larson, Cashier, and C. E. Eckstedt, Assistant Cashier. The capital stock is \$50,000 and surplus \$100,000.

Fraternal Life

Among the societies can be mentioned the Masonic, the I. O. O. F., Maccabees, Modern Woodmen of America, Eastern Stars, Rebekahs, Royal Neighbors, Altona-Oneida Branch of the Free Kindergarten and Red Cross. The Masonic Lodge was organized October 1, 1860, and now owns its own Masonic Hall, a gift being left toward its purchase by Geo. W. Ransom. The first officers were Hiram Hall, W. M.; A. P. Stephens, S. W.; G. D. Slanker, J. W.; J. N. Bush, Sec.; J. S. Chambers, Treas.; B. H. Scott, S. D.; Geo. McKown, J. D.; O. S. Lawrence, T. An order of Eastern Stars was organized in 1892 with forty-six members. In the 60's a lodge of Good Templars or W. C. T. U. was organized and during its career the members demolished a saloon which stood where the garage is now located. I. O. O. F., No. 511, was organized Oct. 14, 1873, charter members, Matthew Wiley, P. G.; John A. Stuckey, Edward Nelson, Richard J. Burneson, Harry E. Wheeler, Jas. A. Griffith, G. A. Hall. M. W. A. Camp, 3737, organized April 3, 1896, charter members, Alfred Anderson, Carl Elion, Nels H. Nelson, Harry Austin, W. B. Elliott, E. W. Norene, August Bowman, P. Englund, F. Parker, G. L. Brown, G. Harling, O. W. Peterson, H. S. Brown, G. Johnson, R. C. Sellon, Thos. Sheahan, S. B. Brown, Frank Krans, A. Swanson, S. L. Collinson, Wm. Lady, W. H. Van Scoyk, J. H. Cummings, Nels Lundahl, H. L. Weaver, Wm. Doak, and Alf Nelson. K. O. T. M. organized August 14, 1894, charter members G. C. Eckley, C. W. Miller, Arthur Shade, C. Gates, A. C. Peterson, G. W. Pierce, Reuben Cox, C. A. Clifford, J. S. Swanson, C. A. Ackerman, Ben Davenport, W. B. Gray.

Of the old settlers very few are left (none of 1850). B. H. Scott, A. J. Anderson, Mrs. L. B. Cummings, Mrs. R. C. Stuckey still reside here. D. Pierce, Knoxville; Mrs. Helen Lindwall, California; Ed Wales, Colorado, and Mrs. Tamblyn, Ne-

braska are some of the pioneers still living.

Fires and Floods

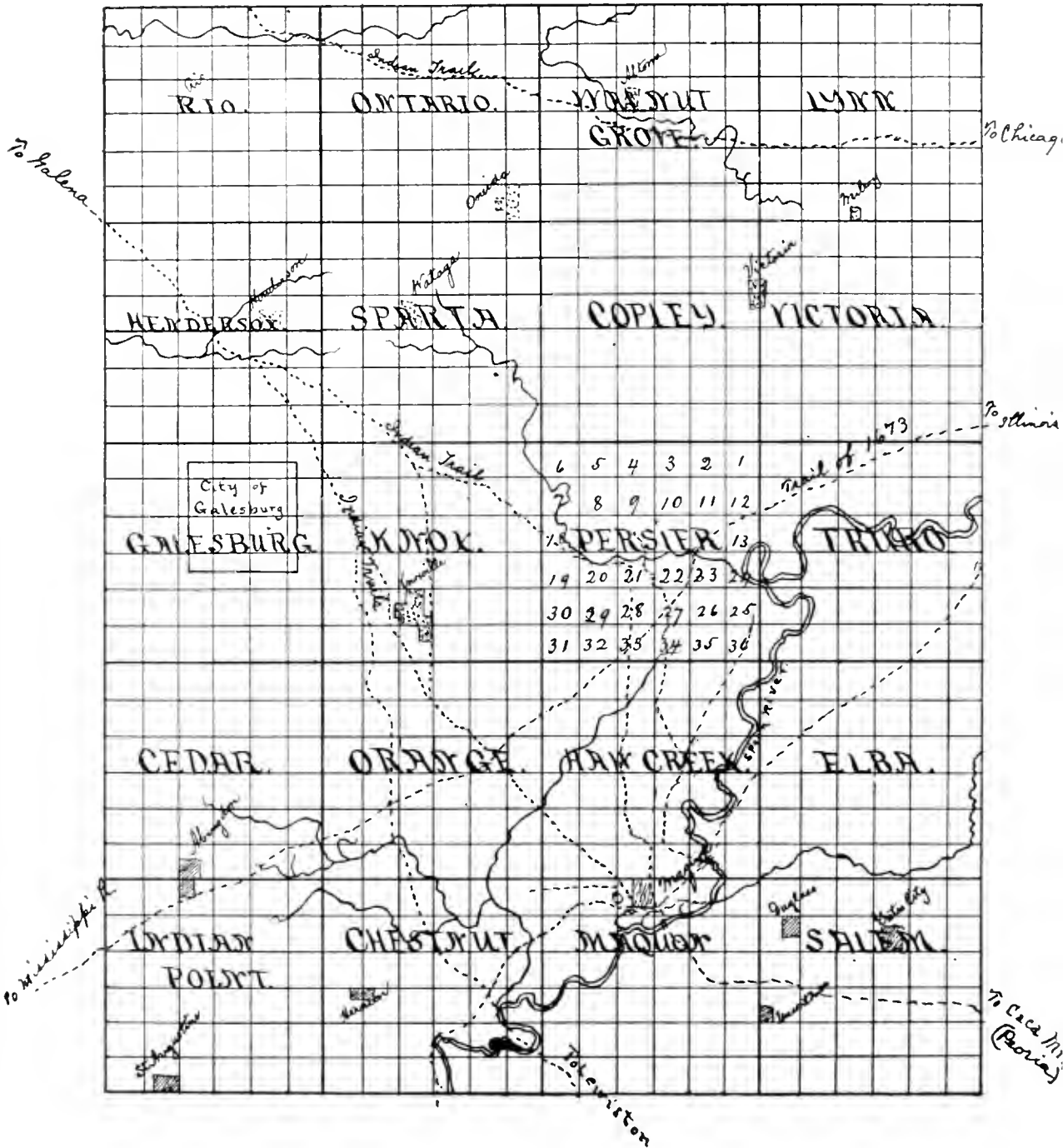
Disastrous fires have occurred at various times. B. H. Scott's store and the buildings south of it having been destroyed by fire three different times. January 2, 1899, the main street was completely wiped out but was replaced the next year by the substantial brick buildings which are now there, two of which were erected by Judge A. M. Craig and two by John McMaster. In 1900 the electric light plant and Tornquist carriage factory was burned, electric light plant rebuilt.

Several floods have caused Walnut Creek to go on a rampage. One, June 25, 1898, resulted in the death of J. F. Hubbell, and washed out the large railroad bridge and arches west of town, causing erection of a new iron road bridge and a summer's work by the C. B. & Q. R. R. when new foundations were sunk deeper to hold the large new arches. Last year the railroad built a large reservoir at their pumphouse east of town, 800 feet long, 150 feet wide and 15 feet deep. This reservoir was completed July, 1918, after eight month's work. A fine place for a factory location. August, 1907, a disastrous hail-storm destroyed the crops in the township, a strip six miles wide and fifty long being devastated. The year 1859 is noted as having a frost every month in the year, was also very wet. The winter of the deep snow was 1830. Cold winds, dark skies, and gusty winds made the days preceding Christmas of 1830 dismal, streams were swollen and snow fell in big wet flakes, later the weather grew bitterly cold and a wind of hurricane force whipped snow hard as sand into the faces of men and beast and piled it in drifts many feet deep covering all fences and cabins. Scores of men perished on the prairies and many of the bodies were not found until spring had melted away the snow. For sixty days there was no sun. Snow four feet deep on the level, lasted until late in spring. In 1891 there was a great deal of snow and roads could not be used until shoveled as they filled up with every fresh storm. Snow still remained in fence corners in June. 1917 was another snowy year with bitter cold weather, drifts eighteen feet deep in the railroad cuts, trains stalled from Friday until Sunday, January 17, 1918, between Galva and Kewanee. Each new snowstorm filled the roads from fence to fence, making roads impassable even at this late day; so the days passed shoveling coal and snow but no such hardships as the pioneers endured in that winter of 1830 when the domestic and wild animals and game perished by the thousand, and the settlers themselves by the score.

The population of Altona in 1870 was 902; 1880, 806; 1890, 654; 1900, 633, and 1910, 528.

INDIAN TRAILS

The following map, prepared by Eva Chapin Maple, of Maquon, shows the old Indian Trails of this county:



THE INDIANS

In the foregoing township annals, there is frequent reference to the Indians. The following citations are here used to throw further light on the tribes that once lived in this county and their methods of gaining a livelihood:

According to Major Thomas McKee, a pioneer resident of the county: "The Indians most frequently seen in this locality were Foxes, Sacs, Kickapoos and Pottawatomies. They were alike in many particulars. The Kickapoos and Foxes were often in the vicinity of Henderson Grove, which was a favorite sugar camp. They were as kind a people as you ever saw. They were considerate. For instance if you were in a wigwam talking, the rest would keep respectful attention. They did not interrupt you. They made their children act with deference in the presence of strangers. They did not hunt perhaps as extensively as some other tribes. They lived on corn and beans, on berries and other fruits gathered in the woods, while a favorite dish was the wild potato or penyon, as it was called. This they found in the bottom lands. It was formerly quite abundant but of late I have not noted it. They speared and caught fish and now and then secured a deer. The squaws did the work and it was not until they were aroused by injustice and unkindness that they became cruel and warlike. The Pottawatomies retained their identity better than the others.

"The language of these Illinois Indians was simple, consisting of but few words, made plain by the most significant of gestures. Their names were long and full of vowels. The following are some of the words used by the Pottawatomies:

Horse	Nan-ka-toka-shaw	Cow	Na-noose
Dog	Co-co-sh	Hog	Ne-moose
Gun	Pos-ka-soogan	Tomahawk	Quimesockin
Knife	Co-mone	Water	Bish
Fire	Sco-ti	Whiskey	Sco-ti-o-pe
Drink	Tela-ma-cool	Food	Wau-a-net
Mean	Mean-net	White men	Che-mo-ko-man
The future	Mon-a-to	Small	Pe-tete
Baby	Pap-poose	Potato	Pen-yon
Nothing left	Cho-ca-co	You are a liar	Kiwa-lis-ki
Pumpkin	Wam-pa-cum	Beans	Ko-Kees
Corn	Ta-min	Melons	Esh-kos-si-min
Hominy	Do-min-a-bo		

Major McKee was one of those who organized a company and served at the time of the Black Hawk War.

Eva Chapin Maple, of Maquon, gives in Perry's County History a map of the Indian trails of the county.

About Their Villages

The following facts are gleaned from a paper read before the Knox County Historical Society several years ago:

As to the Indian inhabitants of Knox county probably the largest Indian village in the county was on the Spoon river bottom, near the site of the present village of Maquon. At different times this village numbered several lodges and possibly several hundred inhabitants. They raised corn on the second bottom and for many years after they were driven from this country they returned at intervals to plant and raise their crops. It was also the custom to place the bodies of their dead in the forks and tops of trees, but after the advent of the white people they commenced burying them in the ground. Another village was at the mouth of Court Creek on Spoon River near the present village of Dahinda. Mr. Morgan Reece, who came there in the 30's, relates that the lodge poles of the abandoned village were still standing when he came there and a few families of Indians lived in that vicinity on Sugar Creek for many years afterwards. The latest family to live in that section had their wigwams on the northeast quarter of Section 14 of Persifer township on land now owned by Mr. William Sargent.

Another Old Village

Another old village was situated just southeast of the present village of Henderson and another in Lynn township at what was called Fraker's Grove. Persifer township is especially rich in Indian lore and traditions. For many years the inhabitants of that township have dug in various places for treasure that is supposed to have been buried somewhere in the township by the Indians. One legend is to the effect that the Indians were paid a large sum of money for their land and that they quarreled over the division of this money and finally fought for it, until, like the fabled Kilkenny cats, there was none left who knew where it had been hidden, but this was improbable. Another story as related in Chapman's history of Knox County of 1878 was as follows: "A tribe of Indians settled or located on Court Creek, Persifer township, whose custom it was to make sugar from the maple trees. They used brass kettles in which to boil the sap. It seems one spring, after they had made considerable sugar, they were compelled to leave. Among the Indians was a squaw and her son called 'Bil.'" This woman had accumulated great wealth. Not being able to carry all her money, she filled one of her kettles with gold and silver and buried it on the bank of the creek. She was afraid of the whites; so after reaching her destination in the West she sent her son back after her money. Bill made extensive searches up and down the creek, but failed

to find it, and the treasure is supposed to be still buried somewhere on Court creek. On the Taylor farm, in 1841, a cellar was being dug, when at a depth of about four feet three bars of copper were found. These had been forged out by hand. A well was sunk, when down about 22 feet the remains of a camp-fire were found. Charcoal and rubbish were discovered which plainly proved that at one time, within the life of man here, that was the surface." An Indian Doctor visited that vicinity a few years ago, claiming to be a descendant of Black Hawk and pointed out many places to the inhabitants of Dahinda which had been described to him by his ancestors who had formerly lived there and in such a way that those who became acquainted with him were impressed with the truth of his representations.

Claims Made for Village

Mr. Morgan Reece who collected a great many Indian relics claims that the village at the mouth of Court Creek was a village of the Sacs and Fox tribes, and that Black Hawk who was of that tribe had visited that locality. Relics have been found in that locality that were different from any others found in this part of the state, but were similar to articles used by the Indians of the Southern states and on exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition of 1904 and were possibly brought to this locality after being captured in war or given as a present by some Southern tribe. One relic was made from a black hard stone. It was about 3 inches long and 2 inches wide and nearly an inch thick at the broadest part, in shape like the roof of a cabin with a hole through it lengthwise about where the ridge pole would be. This was picked up on the banks of Court Creek many years ago.

When Avery Dalton first came to the county, in 1830, there was a Pottawatomie village at what is now Maquon and near the present bridge across the Spoon River, they also had a burying ground near Maquon and large settlements up Spoon River. The Indian cemetery was just east of Spoon River and about on the present right of way of the Burlington railroad. Until 1832 there were more or less Indians in what is known as Kickapoo Grove near Elmwood. All of the Indians in that vicinity were of the Pottawatomie tribe. One of their chiefs who resided at Kickapoo Grove was a very old man at that time and was known as Captain Hill. He always wore a large silver cross suspended from his neck by a buckskin thong; many of the Indians wore silver rings in their noses and heavy ear-rings. They were friendly and great beggars. They were in the habit of going to Shabbona Grove in the spring to raise corn, returning in August and September. Mr. Dalton enlisted for the Black Hawk War shortly

after the battle of Stillman's Run and his company with others formed a battalion of 200 mounted men who ranged over Knox, Warren and Henderson counties to keep back the Indians from the Rock River country. During the time they were out the Indians got through the lines but once and on that occasion murdered a settler in Henderson county. The company had no fights with the Indians. Most of the members of his company were from Fulton county.

Many Other Tales

David Dalton, a brother of Avery, was one of the first settlers of Persifer township and in his day was also a hunter and Indian fighter. There is one locality in the county which should be mentioned and a thorough examination of all that pertains to the earliest explorations of the state might throw some light upon the relics that have been found there. On the northeast quarter of Section 14, in Persifer township, about two miles north and west from the mouth of Court Creek where the latter empties into Spoon River, is a place where in past years many evidences of a battle between large numbers or of long duration have been found. The place is on the bank of Sugar Creek, and within an area of a few acres bullets have been plowed up and found lying on the ground by handfuls. Some few of them were once in possession of farmers who reside in the neighborhood and they were of the large, old-fashioned kind, such as were used in the smooth-bore Queen Anne muskets of two centuries ago.

I had often heard of this so-called old battle field from those who lived in that vicinity. What called my attention to this particular locality was a map of the old French trails first traversed in this State. In looking for information on the subject of this article I had occasion to consult among other books the very excellent book written by Mr. Randall Parrish entitled "Historic Illinois." In this book is a map of the old French and Indian trails and one of them leads from the bend of the Illinois river where it forms the southwestern boundary of Bureau county and about where the principal town of the Illinois Indians was situated, almost in a straight line to a point on the Mississippi opposite the mouth of the Des Moines River. This trail entered Knox county at about the north line of Truro township and traversed the county in a southwesterly direction passing near the present city of Abingdon and through what are now Truro, Persifer, Orange and Cedar townships and crossed Sugar Creek according to the map at the exact locality of this battle field on Section 14. No other relics have been found as far as I have been informed, but the large number of bullets would amply justify the belief that a considerable battle was once waged at this

place. The absence of other evidences, however, is not surprising.

Many other interesting facts about the Aborigines can be found in the Eva Chapin Maple sketch in Perry's History of Knox county; in the Major McKee interview and the Judge C. C. Craig paper, on file in the Public Library in Galesburg; and in Chapman's History of Knox County. Valuable collections of relics were made by Hon. Rufus Miles, Robert Mathews, Dr. Bedford and others and many of these indicate a high degree of skill and workmanship. They are mute evidence of the existence here once of another people who had to give way to the onward advance of a superior race.

OUT ON THE PRAIRIE

By. W. B. Elliott

During a week of September in 1919 the Swedish Methodist church of Center Prairie of this county celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of its edifice. The celebration was very well attended at each meeting and a fine time was enjoyed by all. The former ministers who were present during the services were Rev. Bendix, of Chicago; Rev. H. W. Willing, of Cleveland, Ohio; Rev. N. W. Bard, of McKeesport, Pa.; Rev. A. J. Strandell, of Donovan; Mr. and Mrs. John P. Miller, of Chicago.

One of the features was the following interesting historical address by W. B. Elliott.

When the first people came to Center Prairie, the land was densely covered with prairie grass and blue stem which grew in many places as high almost as a man's head when on a horse. This had been going on for ages so that the soil was covered and filled with vegetable matter and there were no ditches and small water courses to carry off the water as now and the land was very wet and untillable, there being many large ponds which are still remembered by people now living. The result was that Center Prairie was not the first part of Victoria township to be settled up. The first settlers who came settled in the timber surrounding the prairie. They did this for many reasons. They had generally come from the hilly regions of New England states and New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio and had been used to timber as wind breaks. In fact on the prairie where the sweep of the wind was unhindered with the buildings that they were able to put up in those days, man and beast would surely have frozen to death. The writer of this article in his youth had the experience when sleeping in the loft of a log house of awakening in the morning with a thick covering of snow upon the bed covers and which had come in between the logs where the chinks had fallen out and under the clapboards. They did not know they could dig wells here in those days, and so the first settlers settled near springs. Neither did they know that the land was underlaid with coal and so they burned wood and had to be near it, for the fire-places with which they used to heat their homes and cook their simple food, took lots of fuel. All their building material must be near at hand in growing timber. It was the only material they had to fence with also.

The Prairie Fire

It was very dangerous to live on the prairie on account of the frequent prairie fires. I very well remember hearing my

father tell how, when he was was a small boy, his father, Thomas Elliott, tried to plow around the house and stable and also burn the grass for a distance about the building which was known as back firing. When he had seen a fire in the distance he told how the onrush of the wall of flame was so great that it made all his efforts unavailing and jumped to the house and stable so that grandfather had difficulty in saving even his family and beasts. Being burned out in those days was no funny experience, with nothing to rebuild with except growing trees, and with no neighbors for miles around and winter coming on, for these terrible fires always came near winter when the grass had died and was dry. On this occasion my grandfather cut poles and built two pens, one inside the other while grandmother gathered leaves and filled the space between them and in this they lived until they could erect a log cabin.

Were Hardy Pioneers

The early settlers who thus settled in the timber around Center Prairie and who later themselves or their descendants helped to make Center Prairie what it is were hardy pioneers, who came overland with their families in wagons from the older states. I shall only attempt to enumerate a few.

Thomas Elliott first settled in Persifer township in 1837 where the writer's father, Burgess Elliott, was born. He moved later to Victoria township near the present home of James Cook and it was while he was living here that he undertook and got out and delivered on the ground the long hewn timbers for the Methodist church which was built in Victoria in 1854. It was here he lived when he had a contract to deliver railroad ties between Altona and Galva for the C. B. and Q. R. R.

The Wilburs settled just west of Delbert Patty's place in the thirty's and a daughter, Phoebe, married Peter Sornberger and they were the first couple married in Victoria township in 1838, on Easter Sunday.

Luther Rice settled in the timber about two miles south from the Center Prairie church, about 1842, and was the progenitor of a numerous family, among whom was Foster Rice, who built a log house where Charley Larson now lives about 1857, and Cyrus Rice, who built the Robert Young house in 1857, where J. L. Huber now lives, which was another of the first frame houses on Center Prairie. Alvin Rice still owns a part of his grandfather's land. Perhaps the earliest settler on Center Prairie proper was Thomas G. Stuart, who patented the N. E. Quarter of Section 27 in 1838, which old patent the writer recently saw at the Exchange Bank at Victoria.

Burned To Death

He died about 1845 and left his estate by will to his wife, Catherine. In 1850 Catherine burned a brush pile near the house to prepare ground to sow tobacco seed and the house caught fire and Mrs. Stuart was burned until she died trying to save money in the house and was buried just west of the creek on the S. E. Quarter of the old homestead. She was the mother of four boys: Tom, who kept the homestead; married Eliza Gladfelter, was crippled in the war, died at the old home and was buried in Thomas' grave yard, now the Center Prairie Cemetery. Elija, Peter, William and one girl, Katie, who married Van Winkle and was the mother of Henry Van Winkle, who lived for many years north of Four Corners.

Perhaps the next settler in line who settled on Center Prairie was Josiah Patty and Beka Patty his wife, who built a log house on the southeast quarter of Section 27, where Phillip Gibbs now lives, he having purchased the land from Richard J. Barret in 1839. Mr. Gibbs still has the old patent. Their children were James, William, Sarah, Nancy, Robert, George and Josiah.

John Arnold, a blacksmith, first came in Knox County and Victoria township in 1836, but did not buy the old Arnold place where Gust Swanson now lives until 1840. He did blacksmithing there until 1853, when he moved to Victoria. John Arnold and his wife had ten children. In fact in those days the hardy pioneer family that did not consist of ten was the exception and not the rule. Thomas Elliott and his wife were the parents of fourteen children.

Perhaps the first family who settled on the flat prairie to the north was that of Thomas Durand, for whom Jonas Hedstrom, the tailor and preacher, made a wedding suit, who owned the Conley place where Martin Gibbs afterwards settled in 1850, and the two eighty-acre pieces that now belong to Alex Ingles and Wm. England. This land he bought in 1841 and as there was no timber near he fenced the half section with a sod fence, the remains of which may still be seen after a lapse of nearly eighty years. He was the grandfather of John McNaught and Mrs. Cornelius Stephenson of later times. These were the N. W. Quarter Section 13 and the S. E. Quarter Section 12.

Arrival of Swedes

From this time on settlers came in increasing numbers. Especially about 1850 the Swedes began to arrive in large numbers. Among the early settlers were J. L. Jarnagin, 1845; Dalgren, 1846; Adolphus Anderson, 1847, and John Saline, 1854. Then came in 1855 Peter Anderson, Lars Ostrom, John Chalman, Sam Coleman; in 1857, Peter Skoglund, step-father

to Mrs. Catherine Larson, who is still with us, and Sievert Larson, to be quickly followed by Noah Swickard, Lars Johnson, William Hammerlund, John P. Anderson, father of Frank Anderson, who still lives on the old homestead, and who shipped the first car load of frozen beef to Chicago and the man who invented the refrigerator cars that make it possible to ship fresh meat almost all over the world, as also Eli and Shid Johnson, Theodore Hammond, Joseph Cain, James Thomas, Jonas Olson and many others.

Poor Facilities

These were a hardy race who willingly bore the hardships of a pioneer life and bravely withstood the rigorous winters of the bleak and open prairies for the sake of founding their new homes and establishing their families in a new country. They early felt the need of education, as most of them had had very limited opportunities for securing an education, so that almost with their coming they set up log school houses, covered with clapboards and floored with puncheon, which was poles split and the split side hewn and laid up as a floor. There was a fireplace in one end of the room and seats around the wall, made of slabs or split logs with four sticks in for legs upon which the children sat with their feet dangling from the floor as they studied the old Webster's spelling book, before the time of the far-famed McGuffey's speller. It was in such an institution of learning that Burgess Elliott, who was born in Knox county in 1837, as well as others of that time, secured the rudiments of an education. Not long after the first settlers came here, Old Salem, which was started in 1836, became too crowded and the settlers were so far away that they built a small square house on the corner near Tom Stuart's.

William Robinson, a cousin of John K. Robinson, was one of the early teacher's here. This school house soon became too small and it was proposed to build a new one and there was great rivalry as to where it should be built, but as this was near where Salem school now is, and most of the patrons lived east on the prairie, it was finally determined to put it where it now stands, and so the school house was built here in 1856. The sawed lumber was hauled overland from Rock Island and Peoria and the framing timber was got out by John Saline and Charles Appell. John Saline did the the building of it. There was much discussion as to what it should be called. Some wanted to call it Stuart's Prairie and others Anderson's Prairie, but a compromise was made and it was named Center Prairie and Center Prairie it still is. The first teacher was one John Fleeharty, from Galesburg, who taught in 1856. The next winter, John Van Buren, a brother of

George Van Buren, who still lives in Victoria, taught, and 'tis said of him to this day that he was one of the best teachers Center Prairie ever had. The next year, 1858, Miss Mary Garrett, a daughter of old Captain Garrett, who later became Mrs. McIlravy, and still lives in Victoria, taught the school, as she did for several terms thereafter. She, like all teachers of that day, boarded at Thomas Elliott's, and with other families who had children.

The Big Storm

She was staying a week at Moody Robinson's when they had the big storm, May 14, 1858, about five o'clock in the afternoon. It came from the north and blew Robinson's new frame house off the foundation and lodged it against the well. It lifted the roof off of Foster Rice's house and blew a log out over the door so that Mrs. Rice had to put a blanket over Foster, who was holding the door to keep him from drowning. It blew the windows out of Peter Anderson's house; in fact, the double log house of Thomas Elliott, made of the logs of Old Salem school house, was the only one in all this region that withstood the storm and all the neighbors stayed that night at Thomas Elliott's as it was the only dry place in the neighborhood. They lay about two deep all over the floor and 'tis said that none who were old enough to remember ever forgot that storm. Mrs. Robinson's geese were blown away till she never found them. Wagons were picked up and carried to the creek and washed away. Noah Swickard's new frame house, where Alvira Johnson now lives, was blown off the foundation, and at Rochester a house was blown in the river and carried away. The young men of the neighborhood went the next day to Walnut creek and swam around in the tops of the trees among the limbs which were twenty or thirty feet from the ground when the waters receded.

To these schools came the boys and girls that were to make this wilderness a teeming land of plenty. Such men as young Arnold, son of John Arnold, who afterwards became a notable lawyer of Peoria, and Jonas Olson, the crippled orphan boy who afterwards became Galva's most famous attorney and member of the Illinois Legislature and above all a life-long friend of all who knew him. 'Tis said that although he had to walk two miles to school with a crutch, he was one of the most happy pupils, as well as one of the most industrious. It is handed down in school lore that he was a mischievous boy and while studying the old M. C. Guffey's spelling book one day he ran onto what he thought was a bad word and spelled ut in a loud whisper so that the whole school could hear, d-a-m dam, n-a na, t-i-o-n shun, damnation, and he still asserts that what the teacher, Mary Garrett gave him, fitted

the word. At these school houses were held many famous exhibitions, singing schools and spelling schools. Thomas Stuart who was said to be a very poor reader was the most famous speller of all this region, always standing up till all the teachers even were spelled down.

Center of Patriotism

So it was at this school house that the patriots of '61 met to encourage the boys to enlist in their country's cause. One of the most famous songs and one that always aroused the boys to the highest pitch of enthusiasm and which fitted the great leader, Abraham Lincoln, was "We are Coming, Father Abraham, Fifty Thousand Strong."

Center Prairie and the immediate neighborhood did not lack any in patriotism, as evidenced by the list of boys who wore the blue. Among them were August Carlson, Robert Young, Tom Stuart, Oliver Willy, Bill Larson, George Elliott, George Newberg, Adolphus Anderson, John P. Anderson, Nehemiah Coleman, Aaron Bothwell, Sam Cain, Jimmy Topp, Jonas Empstrom, Lee Shannon, Bill Thomas, Jonas Johnson, John Case, James Alderman, John Labar, Noah Swickard, James Jarnigan, Spencer Jarnagin, John P. Peterson, Ward Todd, Wm. Linday and Nat White. Of these famous sons of Center Prairie and surrounding territory who fought in the army blue, only three, George Newberg, August Carlton and George Elliott are now living.

In the World War

A history of the patriotic activities would be incomplete in this year of grace did it not include a list of the boys of the World War who wore the khaki of the army and the blue of the U. S. navy. The honor roll that stands out in front of this church contains a list of men, who risked their lives that democracy might live. They are:

Glen Ostrom, Raymond Wall, Arthur Swanson, Roy Gibbs, Lew Gibbs, Charles Carlson, Sgt. Harold Elliott, Raymond Elliott, Charles Warrensford, Forest Cain, Machinist's Mate 2nd, Edward Elliott, Paul Mustain, Clem Cravens, Ralph Mustain, George Todd, Ervin Moshier, Earnest Brown, Bertas Mackey, Clarence Spencer, Fred Steinman, Robert Kneer, Earl Brown.

The Religious Side

The early settlers were not satisfied to rest at mere physical and intellectual betterment, but above all they were religious. At first they met at the homes to hold worship and as soon as school houses were built they took the place of churches until churches could be built, so that when old Salem school house was built they began to hold meetings there and

camp meetings in the grove, just north, and later the Swedish people held camp meetings on the opposite side of the hollow from the American. Then when the Center Prairie school house was built they used it for a meeting house, both the Swedes and the English speaking people. Louisa Anderson, now Mrs. William Seward, tells me that she was baptized at the school house. Many of the inhabitants of the prairie had helped to build both Methodist churches in Victoria, but were so far away and had only oxen to drive, that they early began to feel the need of a church on Center Prairie and when Peter Newberg and Exstrand started the movement to build a church on Center Prairie they found willing hearts and hands to help. "Exstrand was a very bright young man," says Jonas Olson. "Perhaps I am partial to him because he was a cripple like myself. He walked with a crutch." They were ably assisted by the English people and Swedes alike, one of the most earnest workers being Peter Skoglund. The land where the church now stands was purchased by Adolphus Anderson in 1855 and he broke it up. In 1857 he sold it to Lars Johnson and he in turn sold it to Wm. Hammerlund in 1858.

For a consideration of fifty dollars, Hammerlund sold a piece of land eight and one-half rods north and south and seven rods east and west to the Swedish Methodist Episcopal church of the United States to be for and under the control of the Swedish Methodist church in Victoria township, Knox county, Illinois. The money to build it was contributed by popular subscription. Many volunteered to haul a load of lumber back from Galva when they went up with grain and produce. The mason work was done by Swenson from Knoxville and the carpenter work was done by Peterson Herdine, who lived in Galva for so many years. But the building of this church in 1869 was not without some opposition. Peter Chalman, who had formerly been presiding elder of the Swedish M. E. church of this district, assisted by John Wilson, a cabinet maker, and full of gab, as Andrew Hartman expresses it, and who came to be a real free shouting Methodist and who, wearing no suspenders, in the heat of his discourse, is said to have shed his raiment, organized about three quarters of a mile south of the school house a Free Methodist church. The money was raised by popular subscription, but not enough was raised to pay the debt and so the trustees paid the debt and tore down the church after some fifteen or twenty years. In this church the English Sunday school was held for many years. Thus Center Prairie has been supplied since a very early day with ample church facilities and I hope that future historians of the county will take cognizance of this fact in writing the early church history of Knox county.

The Cemetery

One of the things neglected here, as in all newly settled districts, was the early setting apart of a plot of ground for a public cemetery. The early settlers buried on their own premises. The Tabors buried on what is now the John Saline place, the Stuarts on the Stuart place, the Arnolds on the Arnold place, the Cliffords on the Dr. Craven's place where old "Bobby" Armstrong's first wife, who was a Clifford, is buried. It was not until about 1858 that the family of Jim Thomas who owned the farm where the Center Prairie cemetery is located, lost several children with diphtheria and buried them there and when he sold the place to Olof Bowman he reserved the present plot for a burial ground and later, at the suggestion of William Messmore, deeded it to Knox county for a public cemetery. Center Prairie owes a debt of gratitude to John Thomas for this generous gift and can best repay it by seeing that it is always properly kept up. The present neat appearance is due largely to the good work of William England, Charley Larson and Victor Larson, who were selected by their neighbors to solicit funds and have it taken care of.

As To Utensils

The early settlers had very few of the comforts of life as we view them now. There were few simple cooking utensils. The writer has an old kettle that his grandmother has baked many a corn pone in by placing coals under the kettle on the hearth of the fire place and putting coals on top. All the clothes were made of wool or flax raised in the neighborhood and spun and woven into cloth. Much of the carpet woven in this locality by Aunt Margaret Larson, Adolphus Anderson's first wife, was made on the old loom of Mrs. Thomas Elliott, that she used to weave the woolen and Lindsey-Woolsey out of which she made the clothes and blankets to keep her family warm. It is only within the last few years that this loom has been destroyed.

Practically all this whole prairie was broken up with oxen. Burgess Elliott, Lars Ostrom, Martin England and Adolphus Anderson did much of this work. For this work they used a 28 or 32 inch breaking plow drawn by from four to six yoke of oxen. Some of the back furrows can still be seen on the Martin England farm where Mr. England now lives.

At first the ground was very wet but within a few years a ditching machine which pressed a round hole about three feet under the ground and about the size of a six inch tile was used. This took the place of tile which came later and did very well in an early day, but the hole was gradually enlarged by the water until the top caved in and started large ditches. Well does the writer remember when his folks moved south of

the school house, of crawling, as a boy, for rods in these blind ditches as they were called. As people in the present day go to tractor demonstrations, so in those days would the people come long distances to see new and improved machinery.

The sickle and scythe were not much used here to cut grain, but the cradle was although it was soon succeeded by the McCormick reaper on which one man sat and drove and another stood and raked the grain off in sheaves for the binders to gather up and bind. The first self-raking reaper used here was owned by Adolphus Anderson and his nephew, Frank Anderson, tells of its first use. It was used a quarter of a mile north of where the church now is about 1857 to cut wheat. They used oxen on the tongue and horses in the lead. Frank says he rode the horses. Among the men binding were J. K. Robinson and Manford Mosher. Frank says they had molasses, ginger and water in a pail and a long black bottle. Charles Clark and many others came to see the new reaper work. Robinson says Frank carried the water and bottle and took toll for carrying it to the others. Thus does the historian find himself in a maze of uncertainty as to the true facts.

In those early days all the corn ground had to be marked out both ways and planted by hand. The tools they used to tend it with were the hoe, single shovel, double shovel and bar share plow. It would look funny nowadays to see one plowing corn with oxen as Ben Nelson did about 1860 on the place where Fred Holstrum now lives.

Old Conveyances

Your historian has had much pleasure looking over the old conveyances of the Patty place, the Arnold, the Stuart, the Peter Anderson, Louis Osstrum, Eli Johnson and others. He has seen more patents by the government to land in the last week than in his whole life time before. Cliff Gibbs has the original patent to Tom Stuart from the government signed with the president's name. That is what is known as a sheepskin. Besides a patent which is in effect a government deed, there were issued to the soldiers of 1776 and 1812 land warrants. This was a privilege to locate a quarter-section of land in this military district, enter the land at the land office, surrender the warrant and get a deed in the form of a patent. Eric Ostrom has such a patent issued in 1817 to Cornelius Riorden, sergeant in Nelson's company of infantry of the U. S. after he had deposited a land warrant in the land office that was issued on the soldier's bounty land of the territory of Illinois in 1817. On the same day Riorden deeded the land to Alexander Cooper and the deed is written on the back of the patent. It is sure a curious document. In those days land titles were not so carefully recorded and there was more or

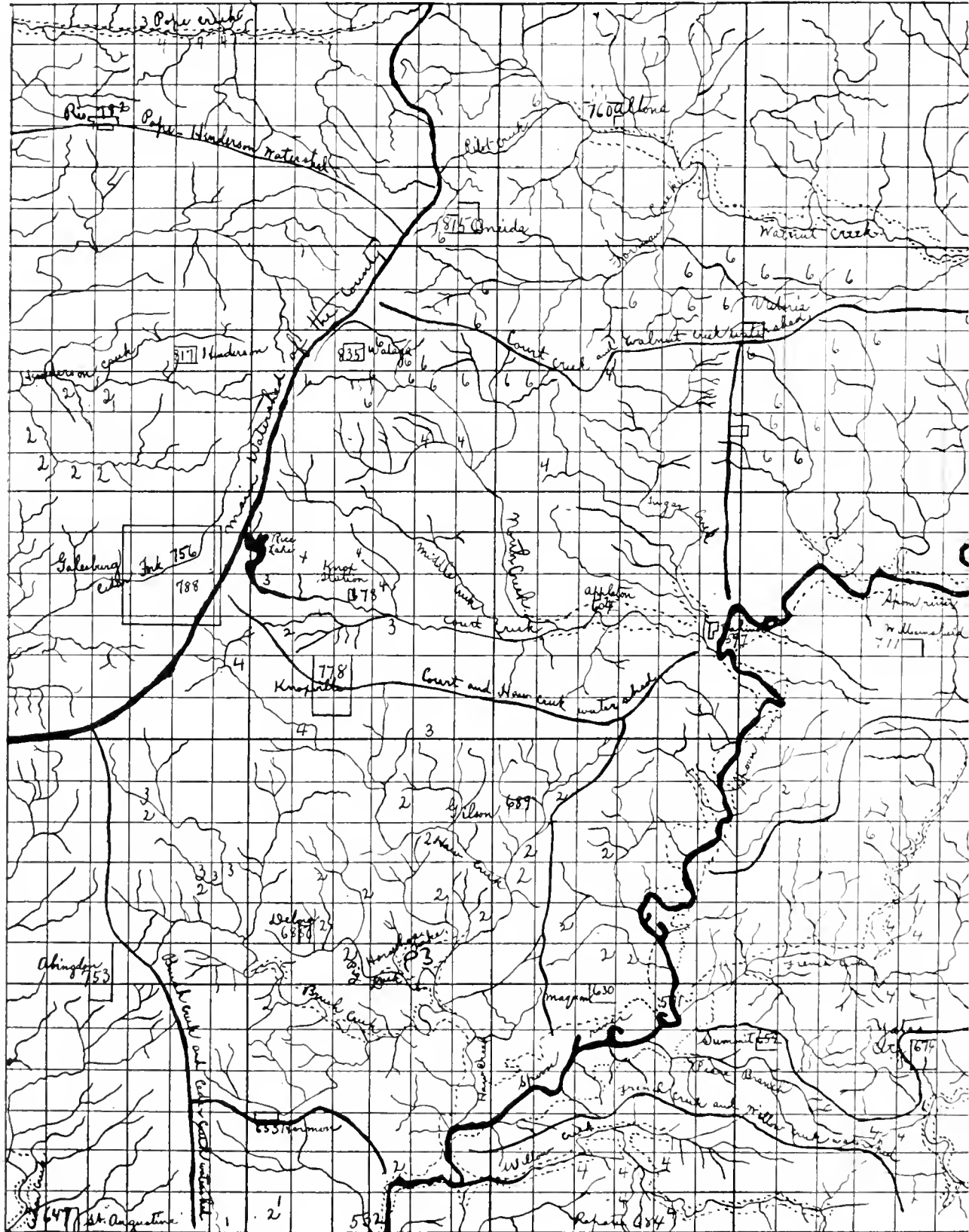
less counterfeiting of land transfers and the country was infested with swindlers known as land sharps. It is said that Pete Skoglund paid for his land two or three times rather than go to law about the title.

But we must not think that all the life of these ancestors of ours was bereft of enjoyment. They lived in a land of milk and honey and had much to be thankful for. One of these was a famous peach orchard owned by Tom Stuart. They were real peaches, says Jonas Olson, and I can readily believe him for you can always trust a boy to know where there's a water-melon patch or a real peach orchard. With an ancestry such as this it behooves us, their descendants, to follow the advice of the poet who says:

“Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate,
Still achieving and pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.”

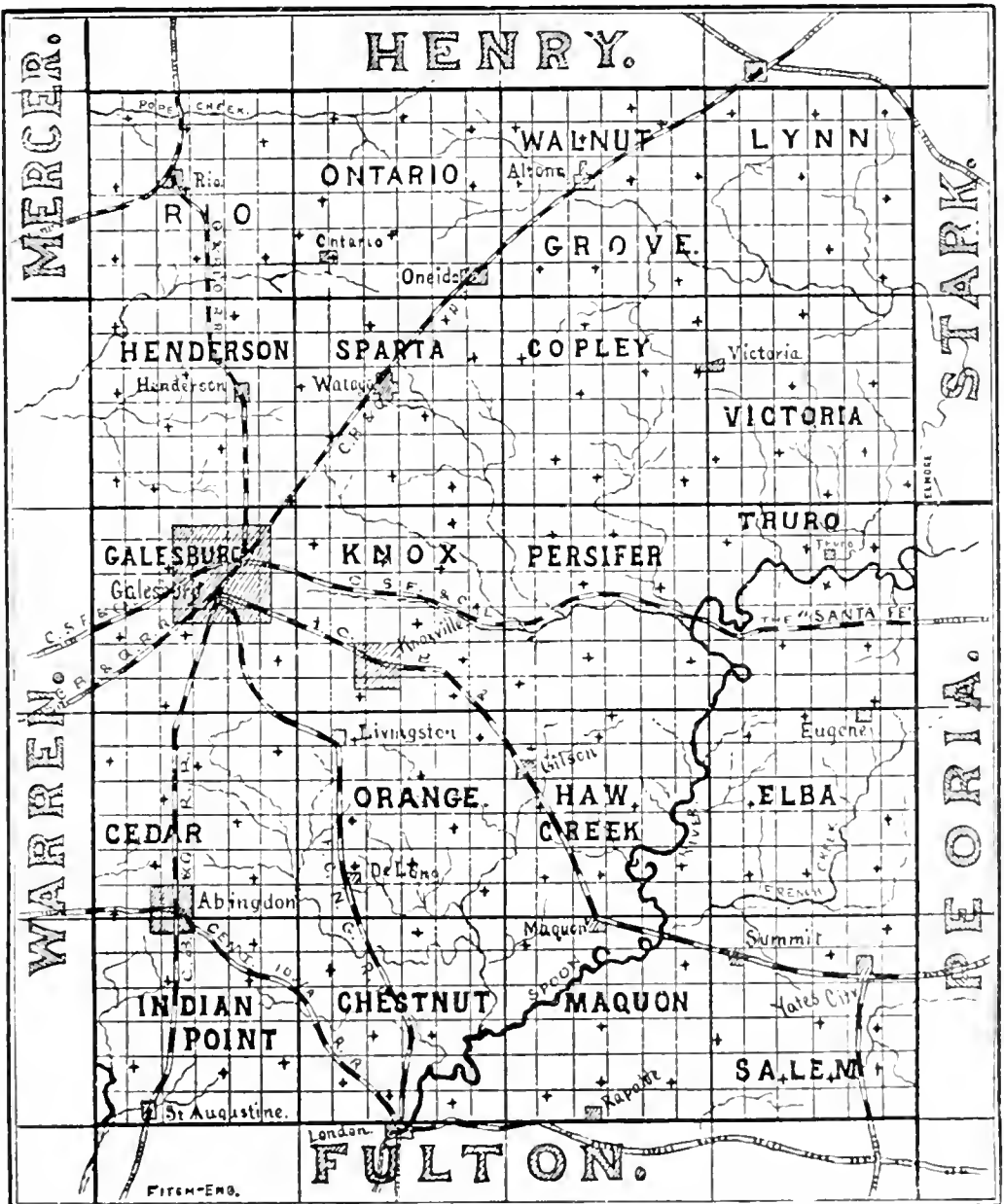
TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF KNOX COUNTY

This map of Knox County shows the stream and watershed system of the county; its valleys; the elevation of principal points above the sea level; and the number and location of the coal veins. These veins are numbered from the bottom up, the lowest vein in the county being No. 1, and highest No. 6. The forested areas are as a rule contiguous to the streams.



MAP OF KNOX COUNTY

The following map shows the townships and railroads and the older municipalities of the county, along with several neighborhood centers. Williamsfield in Truro township, and East Galesburg in Knox township are later towns on the Santa Fe. Hermon in Chestnut township is on the Fulton county branch of the Burlington, formerly the Narrow Gauge. Summit on the Peoria Branch is better known as Douglas.



MUNICIPAL NOTES

Yates City

In Salem township are Yates City, Douglas and Uniontown. The last was surveyed and platted in 1839. It was in the earlier days a point of much importance. Luther Carey opened the first store there and Jacob Booth and Moses Shinn a blacksmith shop, and they made plows and wagons. Thomas Griggsby began brick burning in 1845. The first school opened in 1843. The building of the railroad elsewhere killed its prospects.

Douglas, sometimes called Summit, was laid out October 17, 1856, and it developed from the building of the Peoria line of the Burlington. It has been a lively trading point and has maintained a number of stores, and had excellent facilities for handling grain. It maintains a good school.

Yates City is the principal municipality of the southeast part of the county, and is at one of the Burlington junctions. It was laid out in 1837 by William and A. C. Babcock, Thomas Maple, Rufus H. Bishop, Bostwick Kent and James Burson. James Burson erected the first business house; John Donnemaker opened the first hotel, and Isaac West erected the first dwelling. Buffum and Knable established a grain warehouse. A good flouring mill was built in 1868. Brick and tile were formerly manufactured in large quantity.

The Harvest Home Association, which has made Yates City famous for its annual celebrations, was established in 1886, largely through the efforts of Editor McKeighan of the *Banner*.

The saloon which from 1857 had fastened itself on the city was wiped out in 1875 and with the exception of 1888 and 1895 was kept out. Good banks have for years furnished excellent financial facilities. The city has a first class line of business houses.

The first postoffice was opened in February, 1859, with J. M. Corey as postmaster.

Yates City was chartered on March 4, 1869.

For many years Yates City has maintained a high standard of schools. Among those who were its principals were the late W. L. Steele, so long superintendent of the city schools of Galesburg, and W. F. Boyes, present county superintendent of schools.

Of the Yates City churches, the First Presbyterian was organized November 16, 1866, and the Methodists completed an edifice in 1868.

Also fraternally Yates City is strong and it has witnessed the organization of Masonic, Odd Fellow and Modern Woodmen lodges, and a Grand Army Post.

Yates City has for many years maintained a strong political influence in the county, and one of its best known young men, Frank L. Adams, has for years served efficiently as county clerk.

Maquon

The village of Maquon is situated on or near the site of the old Indian village at the north line of the township and was surveyed by Parnach Owen in 1836, who assisted by several others laid out the village. For several years it had neither religious or educational institutions, but was the site of a distillery and race track, according to Gale's history of the county. Both these long since disappeared and years ago Maquon took its place as one of the model communities of Knox. The village was incorporated March 4, 1857, and its population by 1880 had reached 548. The first building in the village was Cox's tavern, built by Benjamin Cox, and for twenty years used as barracks, kept by Nathan Barbero. John Hipple conducted the first store in a building erected by Matthew Maddox in 1839. For forty years there has been no saloon in Maquon. The business interests are well represented by well conducted stores and banks.

The business portion of Maquon has experienced six disastrous fires all of them of doubtful origin.

Prior to 1848 Maquon schools were held in rooms furnished by Nathan and Calister Barbero, but in that year a substantial brick building was erected. The initial attendance was 175 pupils. The Maquon school for many years has been considered one of the best in the county.

Maquon has responded nobly to all patriotic demands. In the Civil War a full quota of 250 came from the village and township.

The village is well supplied with fraternal organizations, which provide a congenial social life.

Rapatee, also in Maquon township, was founded in 1883, with the building of the Iowa Central in 1883. It was laid out by Benjamin Adams and A. B. Stewart was its first merchant.

Rio

Rio, in Rio township, was platted in 1871 by William Robinson, and was first called Coburg. The pioneer store was built by Messrs. Schroeder and Owens. Nelson Coe was the first postmaster. Rio has always had enterprising merchants, and has been a good trading center. Since its founding, there

have been organized there Masonic, Odd Fellow, Modern Woodmen, Eastern Star and Home Forum lodges. The place also maintains religious worship.

An Early Inventor

Some mention has been made elsewhere of the inventors of the county who contributed to its agricultural development. Mention should be made of Riley Root, who seemed to be the inventive genius of the colonists. Among other things he produced the rotary snow plow, a device for clarifying cane or corn syrups, and a surveyor's level.

Ambassador to China

A Galesburg and Knox County boy, Edwin Hurd Conger, rose to high distinction after graduating from Lombard college in 1862 and serving through the war, where he was breveted as major for gallant service. In 1880 he was elected State treasurer of Iowa. In 1886 he was elected to Congress and was twice re-elected. President Harrison appointed him minister to Brazil serving until 1893. In 1897 he was reappointed to the Brazil post but in 1898 was transferred to China, where he served with distinction for a number of years and where during the Boxer uprising he was a conspicuous international figure.

ILLINOIS

By W. F. Boyes

Such gratitude as is due the pioneers of Knox County is likewise due those who had made Illinois a commonwealth of the Union before this county was settled. One of the bitterest and most significant political contests ever waged made Illinois a free state in 1824, and before our county history begins the boundaries had been established and forces set at work that were to make this state a most important factor in the preservation of the Union.

The territory, now Illinois, was claimed by the French from the days of Marquette to the Treaty of Paris in 1763. From 1763 to the conquest of George Rogers Clark it was British territory. The Treaty of 1783 confirmed Clark's conquest and gave Illinois to the United States. But one of the great difficulties of the early government of the nation was the territorial claims of the different states. Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia all claimed territory lying within the present State of Illinois. The cession of Virginia was made in 1783.

Kaskaskia, just below the mouth of the Kaskaskia river, and Cahokia, a few miles below East St. Louis, were the earliest permanent settlements. This state was settled by people from the north, east and south. Each of these directions brought its own peculiar characteristics and customs. Two groups of families directly from England settled in Edwards county in 1816 and 1817. It is said that no other district created such wide-spread interest in Europe as the Illinois country.

Upon the British occupation of the territory, many of the French emigrated. Development in Illinois was at a stand for years. The white population within the present state was probably not more than 1,000 in 1800. The most marked development of the country began upon the organization of Illinois as a separate territory. In 1818 the population was about 40,000.

Slavery was introduced into the territory by the French in 1721. Nothing was said in the treaty of cession to Great Britain about slavery, but such chattels were held in Illinois as British territory, just as when it was French. The United States in turn agreed to guarantee to the people security in person and effects. So, notwithstanding the ordinance of 1787, slavery was for years a fact. Under the early state government, what was called the Black code recognized the institution and then came the great campaign of 1824, under Gov-

ernor Coles which made it clear that Illinois was to be a free state.

The Indians within the state caused much trouble at different times. The Ft. Dearborn and Wood River massacres were the most serious. But many lives were taken by Indians during the War of 1812 and later.

At first there were two counties in the present Illinois territory—St. Clair on the west, where most of the inhabitants were, and Knox on the east. Later Randolph was organized from the south part of St. Clair. Then came Clark, Edwards, White, Monroe, Crawford and Jackson. There were fifteen counties when the state was admitted in 1818.

The population of the new state was exceedingly mixed, there were few towns of any importance, the roads were paths through the woods, there were practically no schools and almost nothing in the way of public worship. But the climate, the soil, the natural resources, the great waterways, were here. The progress of the people has been commensurate with the development of the state, and it is to commemorate Knox County's part in this wonderful progress of a hundred years that this book is published. The committee of Knox County Board of Supervisors in charge of the publication is: C. H. Pulver, chairman; Milton Deatherage, and Clarence R. Lacy.

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